

MARVEL



PULSATING PREMIERE ISSUE!

# QUASAR

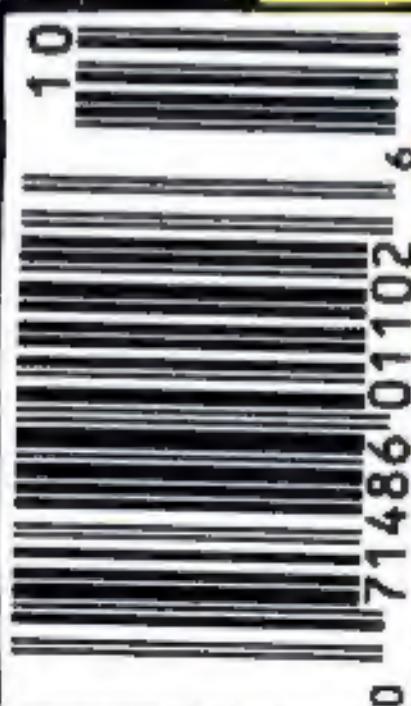
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THE COSMIC AVENGER--  
NOW IN HIS OWN BOOK!



RYAN '88

FEATURING  
THE UNTOLD  
ORIGIN OF  
QUASAR!

STAN LEE PRESENTS  
THE ORIGIN OF

# QUASAR

"THE KID IN THE CAPE AND COSTUME IS THE ONLY SON OF THE FAMOUS GERMAN ROCKET SCIENTIST WHO DEFECTED TO THE WEST IN THE 30'S. HORACE GRABBED..."

"HIS NAME'S ROBERT GRAYSON, BUT HE WAS BETTER KNOWN AS MARVEL BOY. FAR AS WE CAN TELL, HE WAS THE FIRST GUY TO EVER WEAR THOSE FUNKY GLOWING BRACELETS WE'RE ALL INTERESTED IN."

"HE USED 'EM PRIMARILY FOR BLINDIN' HIS OPPONENTS IN A ONE-MAN CRUSADE AGAINST CRIMINALS AND COMMUNISTS BACK IN THE EARLY 50'S."

"GOTTA ADMIRE THE KID'S SPUNK, MUH!"

"WHERE HE GOT THOSE FANCY WRISTBANDS WE DON'T KNOW, BUT IT'S RUMORED THAT GRAYSON AND HIS DAD SPENT SOME TIME ON A ROCKET IN DEEP SPACE."

# THE PRICE OF POWER!

MARK GRIENWALD - PAUL RYAN - DANNY BULAWADI - JANICE CHIANG - PAUL DECTON - HOWARD MACKIE - TOM CHIEF  
STORY BREAKDOWNS FINISHES LETTERS COLORS EDITS OFALCO

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"SOME TIME BEFORE THE **FANTASTIC FOUR** FIRST CAME ON THE SCENE, GRAYSON DISAPPEARED. NO ONE HEARD A PEEP FROM HIM FOR WELL OVER A DECADE--"



"--AND WHEN HE POPPED UP AGAIN, HE WAS MISSIN' A FEW MARBLES."

"THE FANTASTIC FOUR HADDA STEP IN TO COOL HIS RAMPAGE."

"SOMEWHERE IN THAT TIME, HE LEARNED TO TURN UP THE POWER ON THOSE WRIST-GIZMOS, AN' INSTEAD A JUST USIN' EM TO SHOOT **BLINDIN' LIGHT**--"



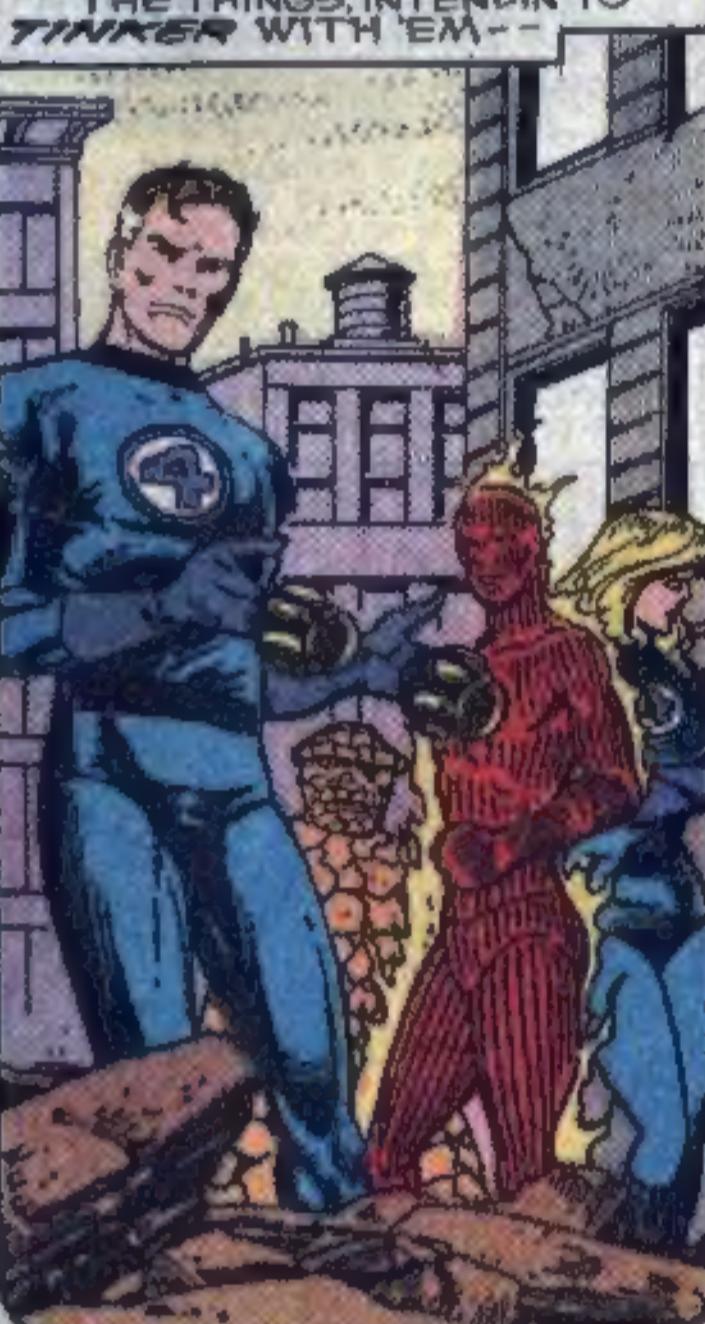
"--HE WAS NOW USIN' 'EM TO FLY AN' SHOOT LETHAL SOLAR-BLASTS."

"UNFORTUNATELY FOR HIM, HE DIDN'T HAVE THE CONTROL OVER THE DOOHICKEYS HE THOUGHT HE DID, AN' WHEN HE TURNED UP THE JUICE TOO HIGH--"



"--HE DISINTEGRATED HIMSELF."

"THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHIN' LEFT OF HIM--'CEPT FOR THE BRACELETS. THE FF'S HEAD HONCHO, **REED RICHARDS**, CONFISCATED THE THINGS, INTENDIN' TO TINKER WITH 'EM--"



--BUT FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY REASONS, RICHARDS WAS OBLIGED TO TURN THEM OVER TO US HERE AT S.M.I.L.E.O.M...



\*THE WORLD'S FOREMOST SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCY\*

AND THAT'S WHERE YOU SCIENCE BOYS AT STARK COME IN...

COLONEL FURY, NEED I REMIND YOU THAT MY COMPANY IS NO LONGER IN THE WEAPONS BUSINESS?



I'M NOT ASKIN' YOU TO MAKE A WEAPON, MR. STARK, I'M JUST ASKIN' YOU TO EXAMINE WHAT SEEMS TA BE SOME KINDA NEW ARTIFACT AN' LET US KNOW WHAT MAKES IT TICK.

IT'S POSSIBLE IT MAY HAVE SOME DEFENSIVE USES...

WHAT DO YOU THINK, GILBERT?

WELL, I'M A BIT PREJUDICED, MR. STARK. I'VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF BEING ABLE TO STUDY MORE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL OBJECTS THAN ANY OTHER SCIENTIST EXCEPT FOR DR. RICHARDS...

-- AND I'M ALWAYS EAGER FOR A NEW OPPORTUNITY.

I'M CERTAIN MY COLLEAGUES, DR. ZANE AND DR. REEDER, WOULD CONCUR.

THEN WE GOT A DEAL, TONY! YOU AND YOUR CREW WILL HAVE A SIX-MONTH CONTRACT TO FIDDLE WITH THOSE FUNKY BRACELETS.

YES, WE HAVE A DEAL, NICK.

GOOD. THEN I'LL HAVE MR. COVENEY HERE ARRANGE FOR THEIR TRANSFER TO YER FACILITIES.



COLONEL FURY, I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WERE AWARE THAT MY SON WAS CURRENTLY UNDERGOING TRAINING WITH YOUR AGENCY.

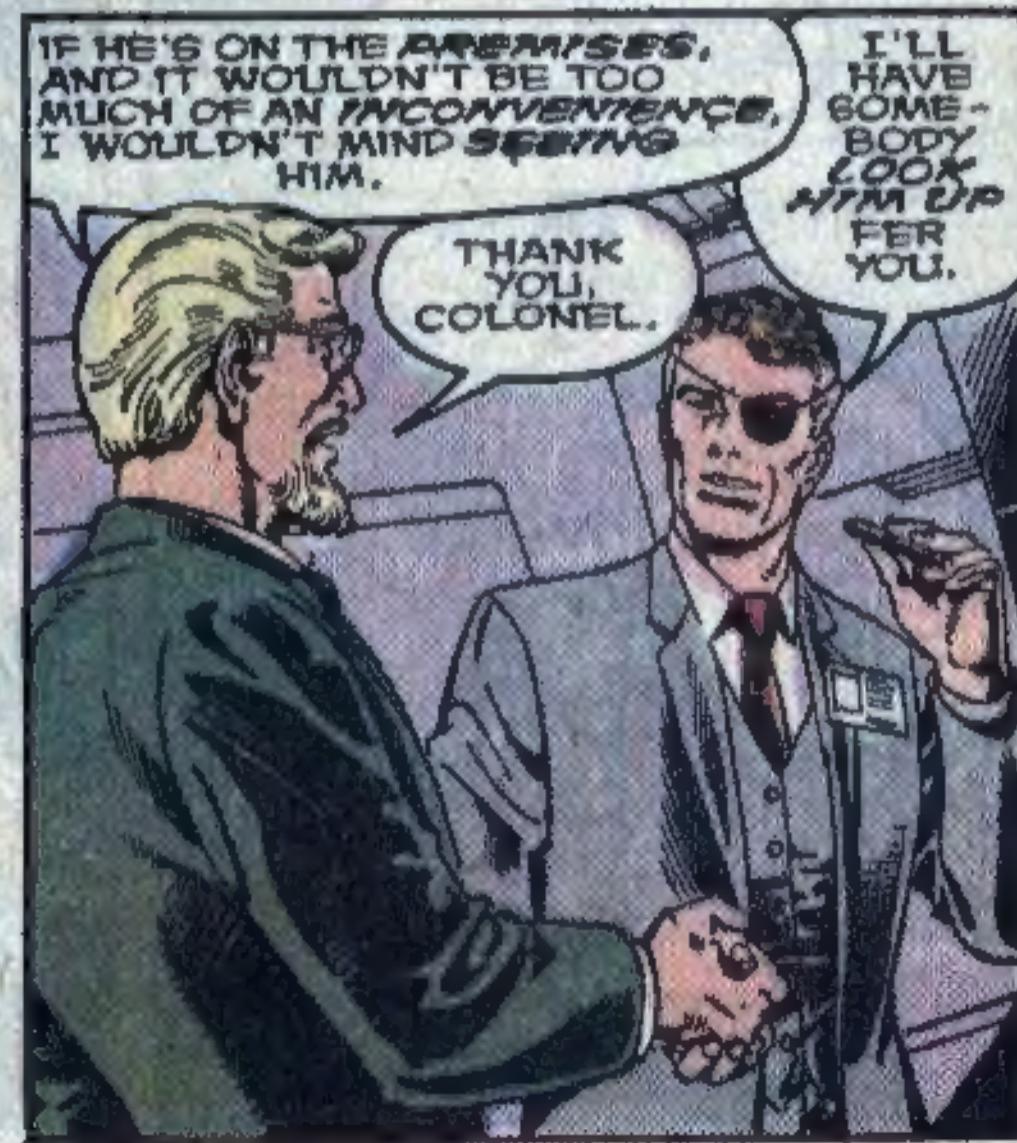
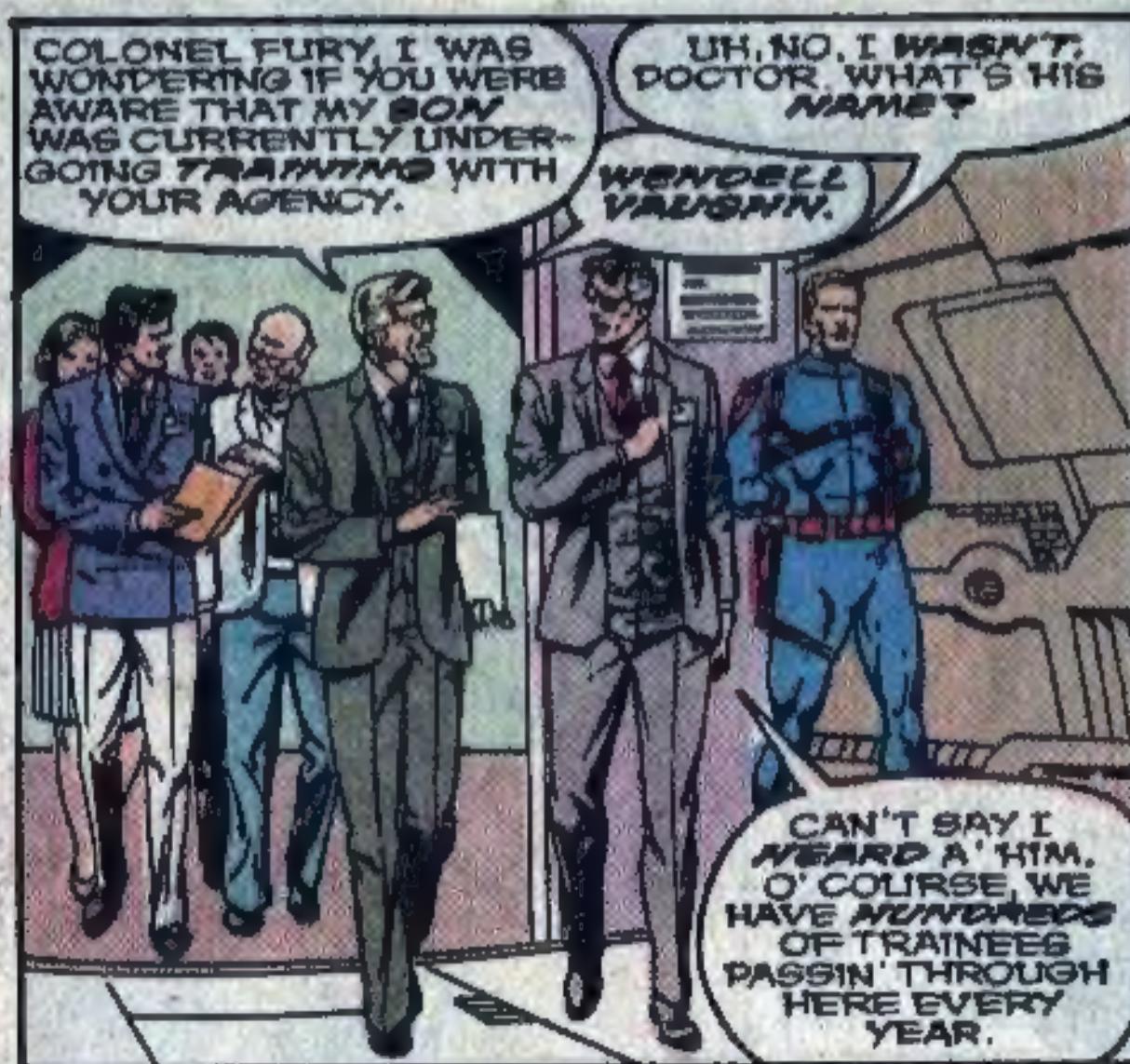
UH, NO, I WASN'T, DOCTOR. WHAT'S HIS NAME?

WENDELL VAUGHN.

CAN'T SAY I HEARD A' HIM. O' COURSE, WE HAVE HUNDREDS OF TRAINEES PASSIN' THROUGH HERE EVERY YEAR.

THANK YOU, COLONEL.

I'LL HAVE SOMEBODY LOOK HIM UP FOR YOU.



ELSEWHERE IN THE  
VAST S.H.I.E.L.D.  
COMPLEX...

NEXT  
MATCH WILL  
BE... CADETS  
VAUGHN AND  
RUNCITER...

PLEASE  
RISE.

OH, GREAT.  
I WOULD HAVE TO  
FIGHT HER FOR MY  
THIRD AND FINAL  
EXAM IN HAND-TO-  
HAND COMBAT.

GAIL'S ONE OF  
THE **BEST FIGHTERS**  
IN OUR CLASS. I'M STILL  
SORE FROM THE LAST  
TIME I WAS PAIRED  
OFF WITH HER!



AFTER MY FIRST  
TWO LACKLUSTER  
BOUTS, I'VE REALLY  
GOT TO MAKE A GOOD  
SHOWING THIS TIME.  
NOTHING PERSONAL,  
GAIL, BUT I'M GOING  
TO HAVE TO KICK  
YOUR BUTT!

YOU HAVE EACH FOUGHT  
TWO MATCHES ALREADY.  
DO I NEED TO REPEAT  
THE RULES?

NO.  
SENSEI.

VERY WELL THEN.  
NOW TO YOUR  
OPPONENT--



FLYING SIDE KICK INTO  
A SPINNING BACK KICK. HER  
FAVORITE COMBINATION.



I'M READY FOR  
IT THIS TIME.



HAI!



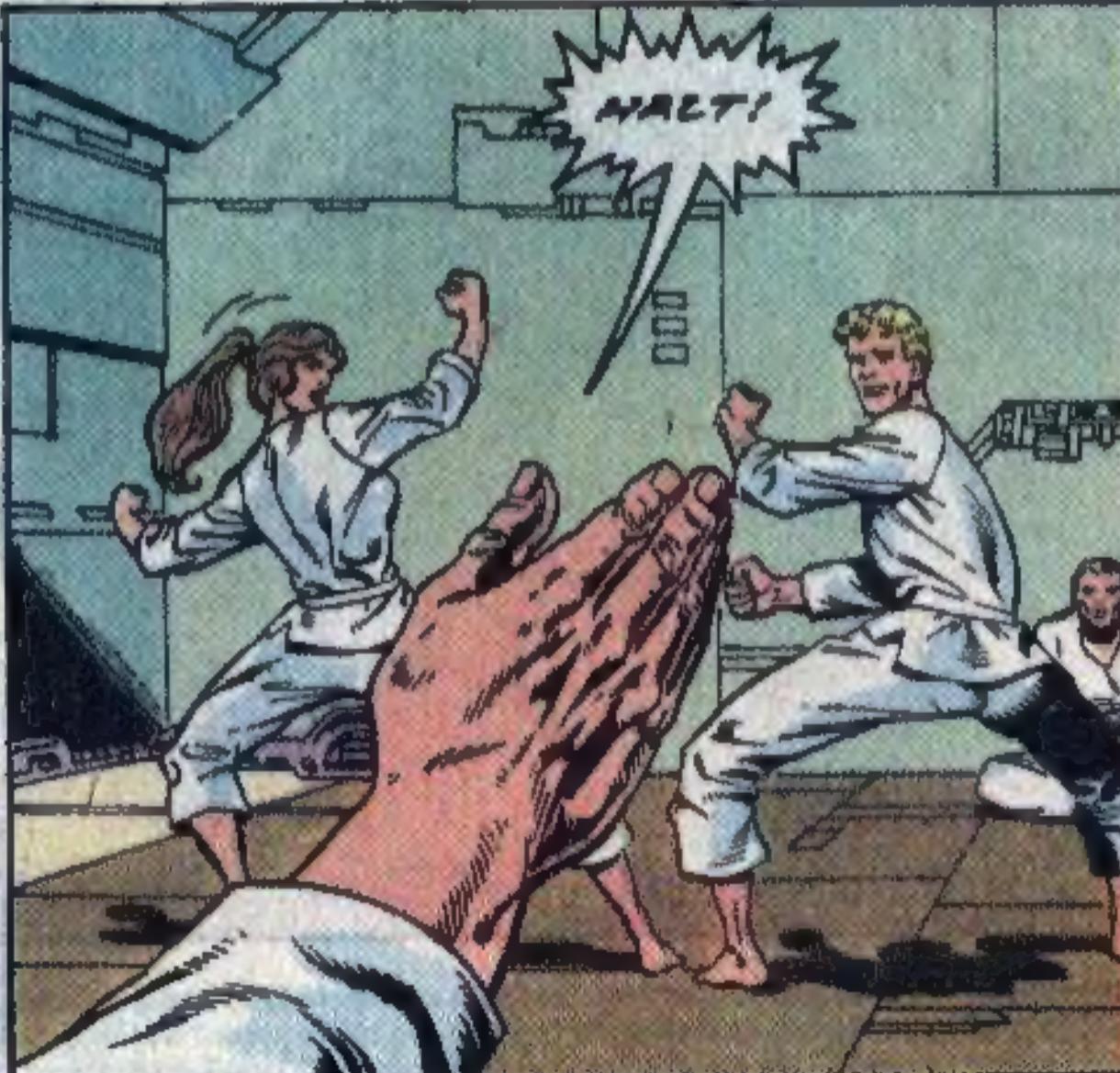
AND IN THE  
OBSERVATION  
BOOTH...

IF YA'LL STEP THIS WAY, DOC,  
YA SHOULD GET A SQUINT OF  
YER BOY IN ACTION.

DON'T MIND  
US, FELLAS.  
VISITIN'  
V.I.P.'S.

WHY, THAT'S  
WENDELL  
DOWN THERE!

TALK  
ABOUT  
PERFECT  
TIMIN',  
HUH?



DOO

WACT!

AM

YOU MAY RETURN  
TO YOUR  
PLACES.

MAN,  
DID I DO  
AS POOREY  
AS I THINK  
I DID?

YER KID'S THROUGH. WANT  
ME TO CALL 'IM OUT O' CLASS?

NO, THAT WILL  
NOT BE NECESSARY.  
SEEING HIM WAS  
ENOUGH. DON'T  
LET HIM KNOW I  
WAS HERE,  
OKAY?

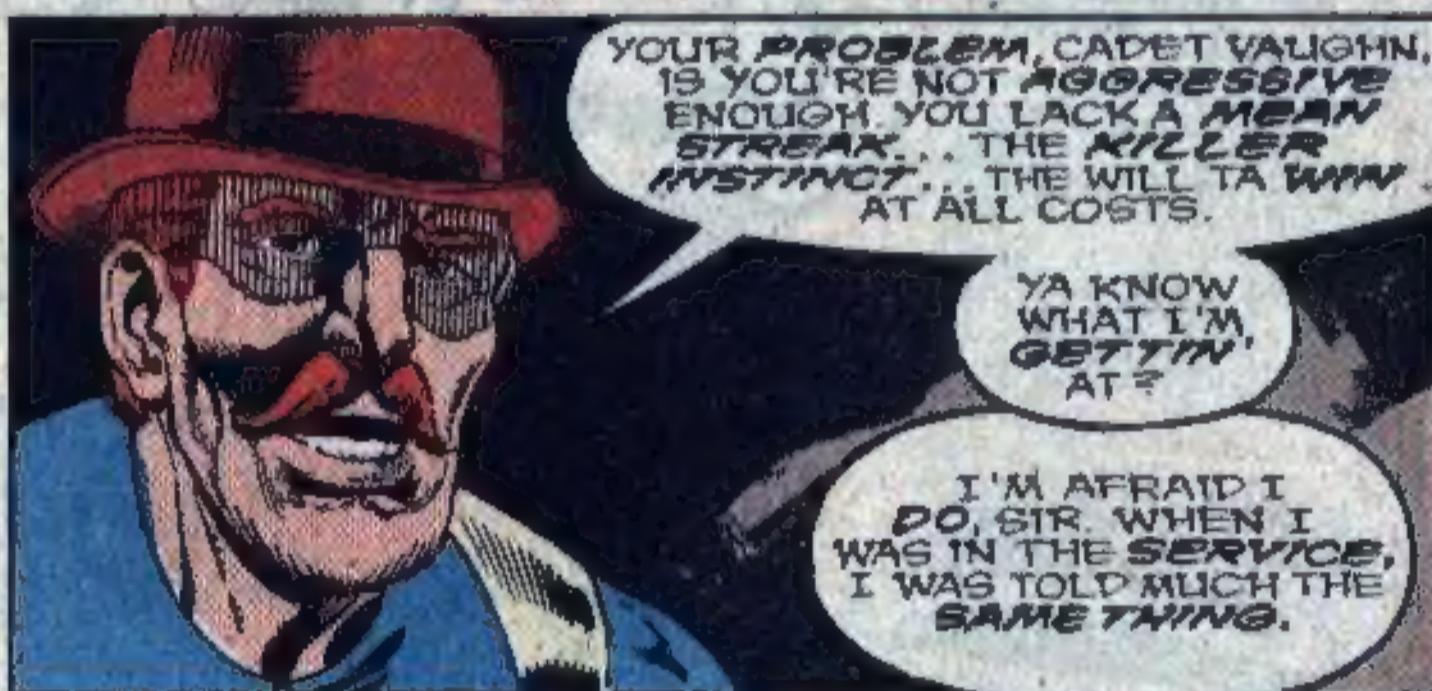
SURE.

WHAT  
AN ODD  
DUCK.

THE  
NEXT  
DAY...

CADET VAUGHN,  
WENDELL E...

YOUR SCORES LOOK  
PRETTY DANG GOOD,  
CADET. YER AT THE TOP  
OF THE CLASS  
IN COMBAT TECH,  
SURVEILLANCE, AND  
CRYPTOGRAPHY...



YOUR PROBLEM, CADET VAUGHN,  
IS YOU'RE NOT AGGRESSIVE  
ENOUGH. YOU LACK A MEAN  
STREAK... THE KILLER  
INSTINCT. THE WILL TO WIN  
AT ALL COSTS.

YA KNOW  
WHAT I'M  
GETTIN'  
AT?

I'M AFRAID I  
DO, SIR. WHEN I  
WAS IN THE SERVICE,  
I WAS TOLD MUCH THE  
SAME THING.

TECHNICALLY, YER GOOD  
AT MOST EVERYTHING  
A S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT'S  
S'POSED TO BE GOOD AT,  
BUT WITHOUT THAT  
FIGHTING EDGE--

--YOU AIN'T  
GONNA MAKE A  
VERY GOOD  
FIELD  
AGENT.

D--DOES  
THIS MEAN  
I FLUNK  
OUT SIR?



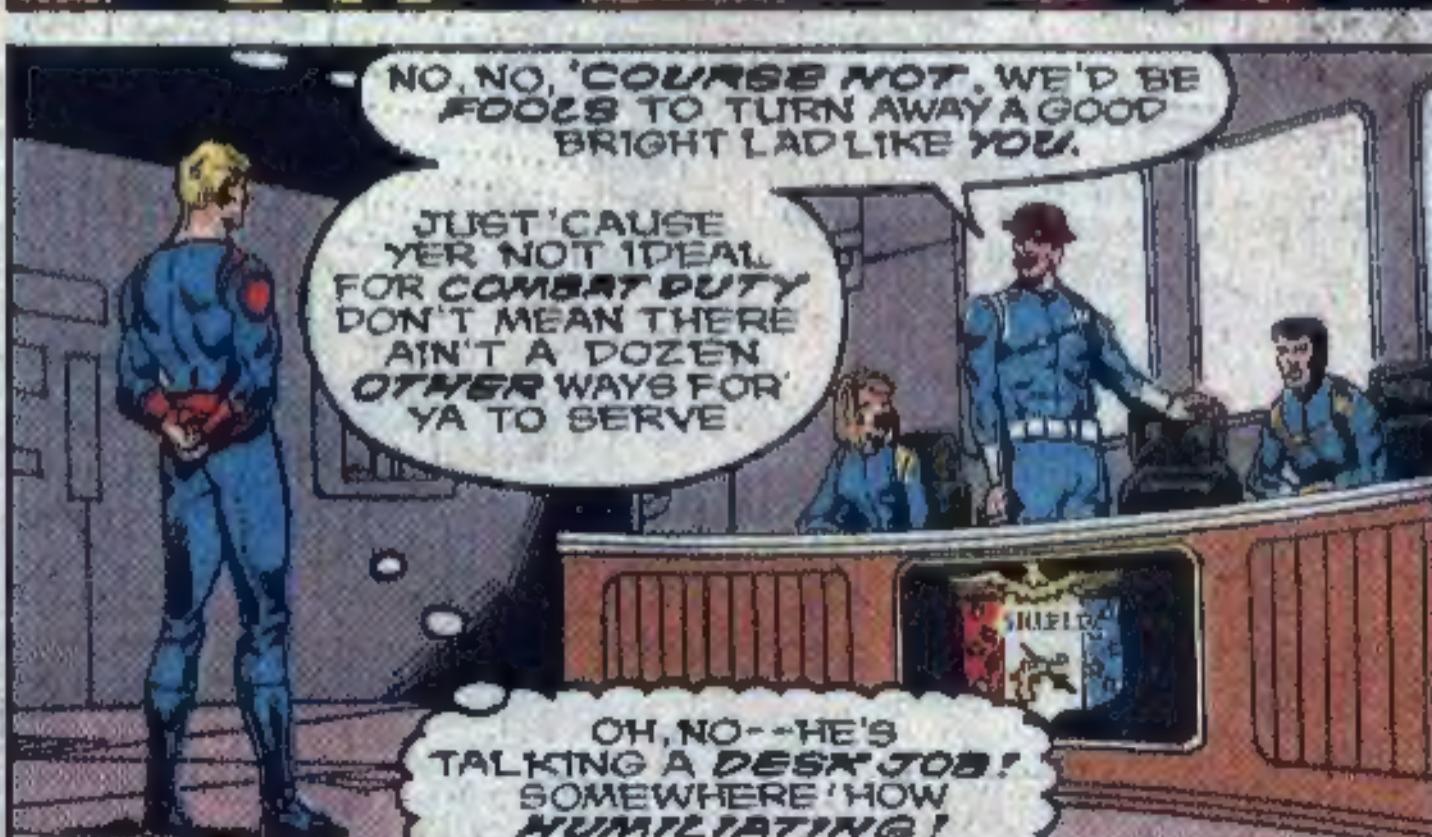
'CORDING TO  
A COUPLE OF  
INSTRUCTORS,  
YA GOT JUST  
ONE  
PROBLEM, AND  
UNFORTUNATELY,  
IT'S A SERIOUS  
ONE ...

UH-OH.  
THIS  
IS IT.

NO, NO, 'COURSE NOT. WE'D BE  
FOOLS TO TURN AWAY A GOOD  
BRIGHT LAD LIKE YOU.

JUST 'CAUSE  
YER NOT IDEAL  
FOR COMBAT DUTY  
DON'T MEAN THERE  
AIN'T A DOZEN  
OTHER WAYS FOR  
YA TO SERVE.

OH, NO--HE'S  
TALKING A DESK JOB!  
SOMEWHERE 'HOW  
HUMILIATING!



CHIN UP, SONNY. COMBAT AIN'T ALL IT'S CRACKED UP TA BE, TAKE IT FROM A GUY WHO'S BEEN THERE.

NOW GO ON, YA GOT A FURLough, Y'A'LL BE GETTIN' YER FIELD PLACEMENT IN A WEEK ORSO.

THEY KNOW. THEY CAN ALL SEE THAT I'M A WALKING FAILURE.



A DAY LATER, OUTSIDE PITTSBURGH...

INTENSITY UP TO TEN, DR. VAUGHN.



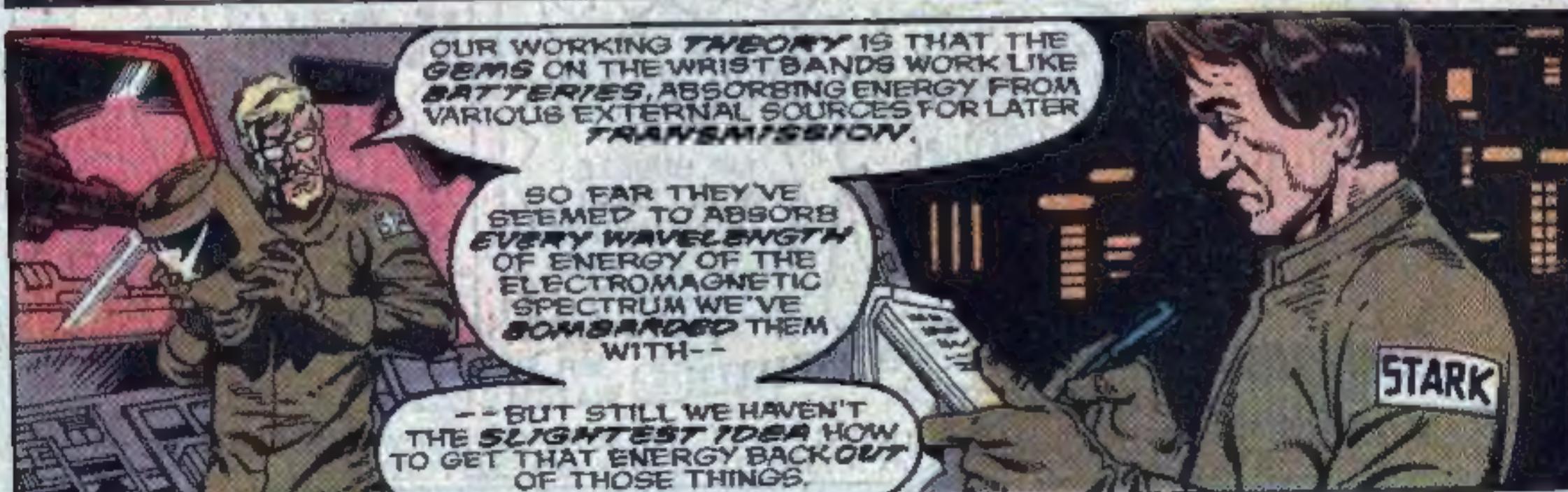
INCREDIBLE... THEY TAKE THE FULL CHARGE OF ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL LASERS\* ON EARTH-- AND NOTHING HAPPENS!

\*LIGHT AMPLIFICATION THROUGH STIMULATED EMISSION OF RADIATION.

OUR WORKING THEORY IS THAT THE GEMS ON THE WRIST BANDS WORK LIKE BATTERIES, ABSORBING ENERGY FROM VARIOUS EXTERNAL SOURCES FOR LATER TRANSMISSION.

SO FAR THEY'VE SEEMED TO ABSORB EVERY WAVELENGTH OF ENERGY OF THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM WE'VE BOMBARDDED THEM WITH--

--BUT STILL WE HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA HOW TO GET THAT ENERGY BACK OUT OF THOSE THINGS.



WHHEW! WE'VE BEEN WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK SINCE THOSE CRAZY BRACELETS ARRIVED. IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVE A REPORT DUE FOR A COUPLE WEEKS YET.

HOW ABOUT WE TAKE A BREATH?

GO AHEAD. SOME OF US HAVE A LITTLE MORE DEDICATION.



FUN WORKING WITH A WORKAHOLIC, HUH? YOU WANT ANYTHING, REZNEKT?

HOW ABOUT ONE OF THOSE AWFUL TUNA SANDWICHES AND A DIET COKE?

YOU GOT IT.



RELAX, GUYS. JUST TAKING A FOOD RUN. GET YOU SOMETHING?

NO THANK YOU.



NO ONE IN THE LOUNGE. ABSOLUTELY!



AGENT T-20 REPORTING IN. "GOLDEN APPLES" ARE IN SOUTHEAST LABORATORY BUILDING GROUND FLOOR. STANDARD SECURITY TEAM. I'LL SIGNAL ONCE THEY'VE BEEN TESTED. OUT!

CAN'T RISK MORE THAN A 25-SECOND TRANSMISSION. NEVER KNOW WHEN STARK'S RENT-A-COPS MAY MAKE A WIDE-FREQUENCY SIGNAL SCAN.



OH, GOOD. THEY'VE RESTOCKED ROOT BEER.



OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN. THREE DAYS LATER...

WENDELL,  
YOU UP YET?

YEAH,  
MOM.

IF YOU WANT  
TO USE THE  
CAR TO VISIT  
FRIENDS OR  
YOUR SISTER,  
YOU CAN DROP  
ME OFF AT  
WORK.

THAT'S,  
OKAY. I WON'T  
NEED IT.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SPEND  
ANOTHER WHOLE DAY MOPING  
IN YOUR ROOM, ARE YOU?

I HAVEN'T  
DECIDED  
YET.

LOOK, SONNER, I  
KNOW IT MUST BE A  
BIT DEPRESSING  
TO BE BACK HOME AND  
TREATED LIKE A KID  
AGAIN AFTER BEING OUT  
ON YOUR OWN  
SO LONG--

YOU DON'T BABY ME THAT MUCH, MOM. I  
JUST-- I DON'T KNOW, I JUST KEEP STEWING  
ABOUT MY POOR SHOWING ON MY SHIELD  
FINALS, AND I CAN'T HELP FEELING LIKE  
I'VE LET EVERYBODY DOWN...

... LIKE  
I'LL NEVER  
DO ANYTHING  
TO MAKE YOU  
AND DAD  
PROUD  
OF ME.

SON, I'M ALREADY  
PROUD OF YOU AND  
THERE'S NOTHING  
YOU'LL EVER DO TO  
CHANGE THAT. AS  
FOR YOUR FATHER,  
YOU KNOW WHAT  
KIND OF MAN  
HE IS.

IT'S HIS RIGID  
IMPERSONAL  
WAY THAT MADE  
IT IMPOSSIBLE  
FOR US TO STAY  
MARRIED.

YOU'VE GOT TO GET OVER  
TRYING TO PLEASE HIM,  
SONNER, AND WORK ON JUST  
PLEASING YOURSELF.

OH, A LETTER  
FOR YOU CAME  
IN TODAY'S--

IS IT--?

YES! IT'S MY  
FIELD  
PLACEMENT!  
WHAAAT?

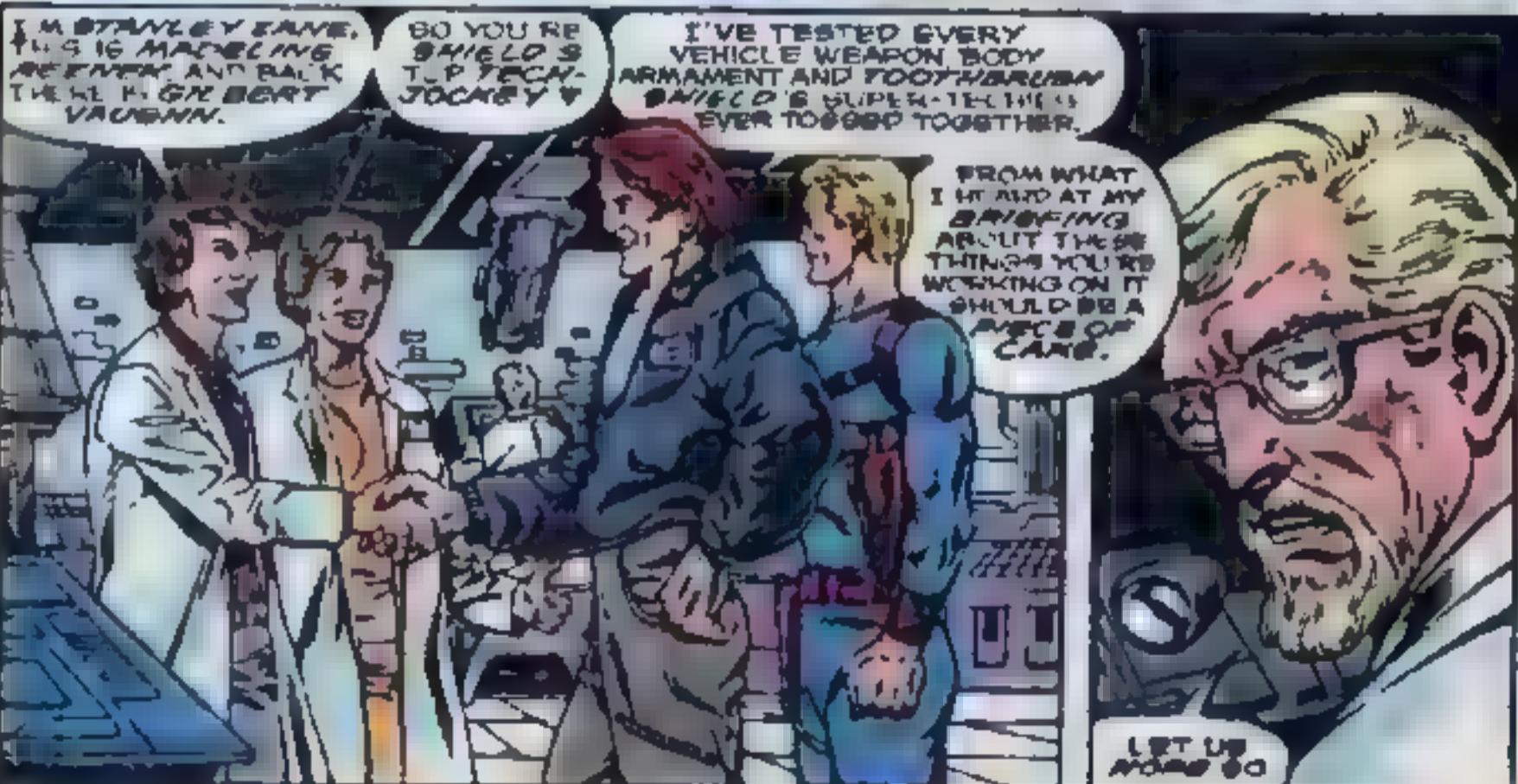
WHAT'S  
WRONG?

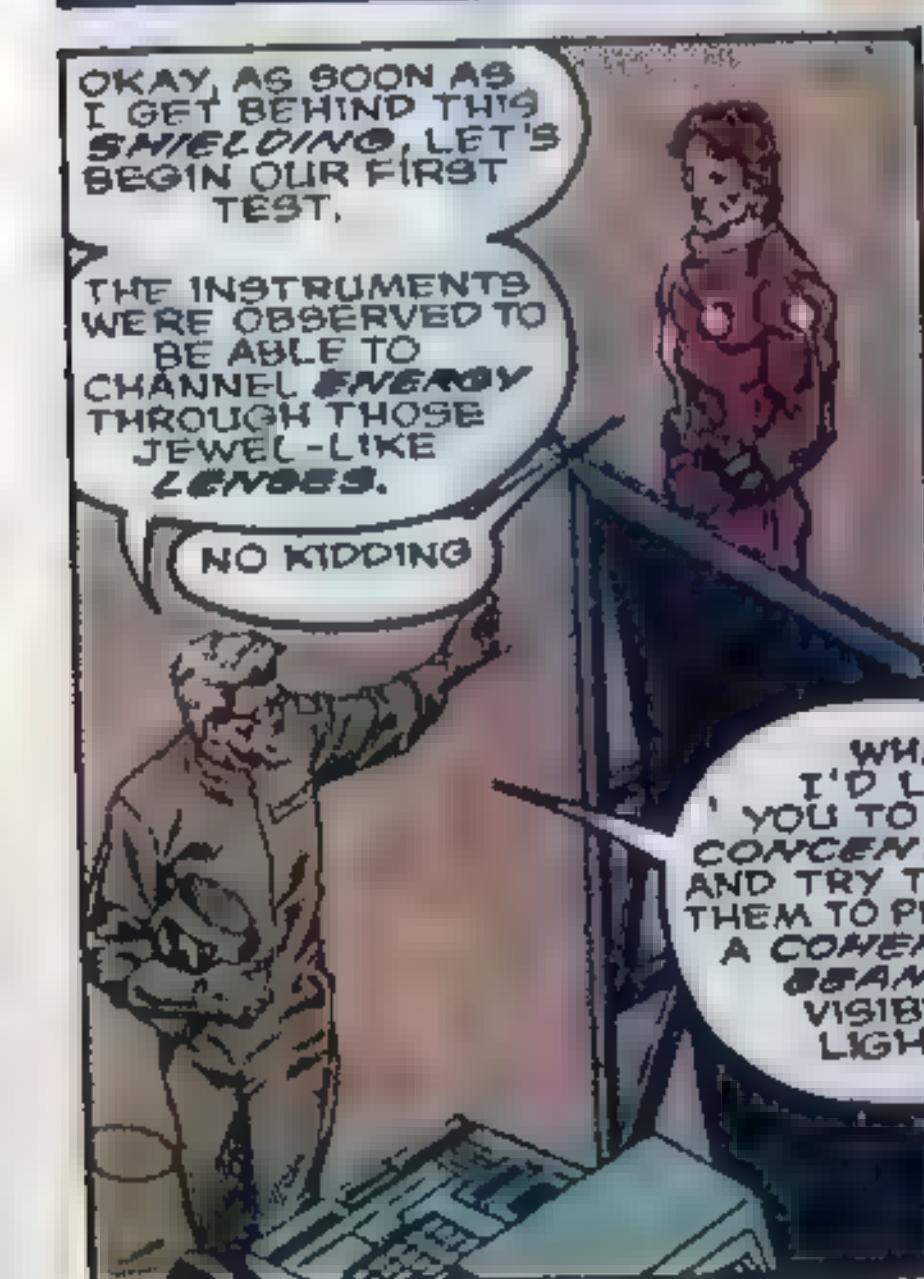
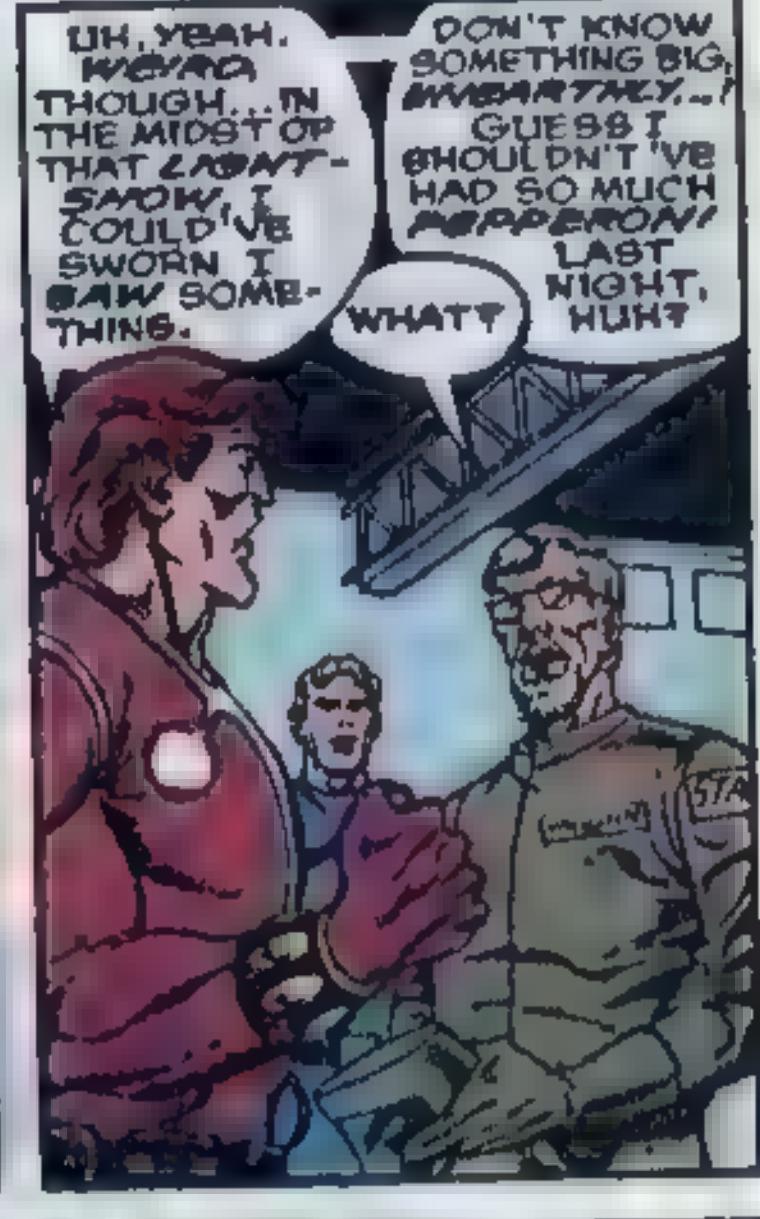
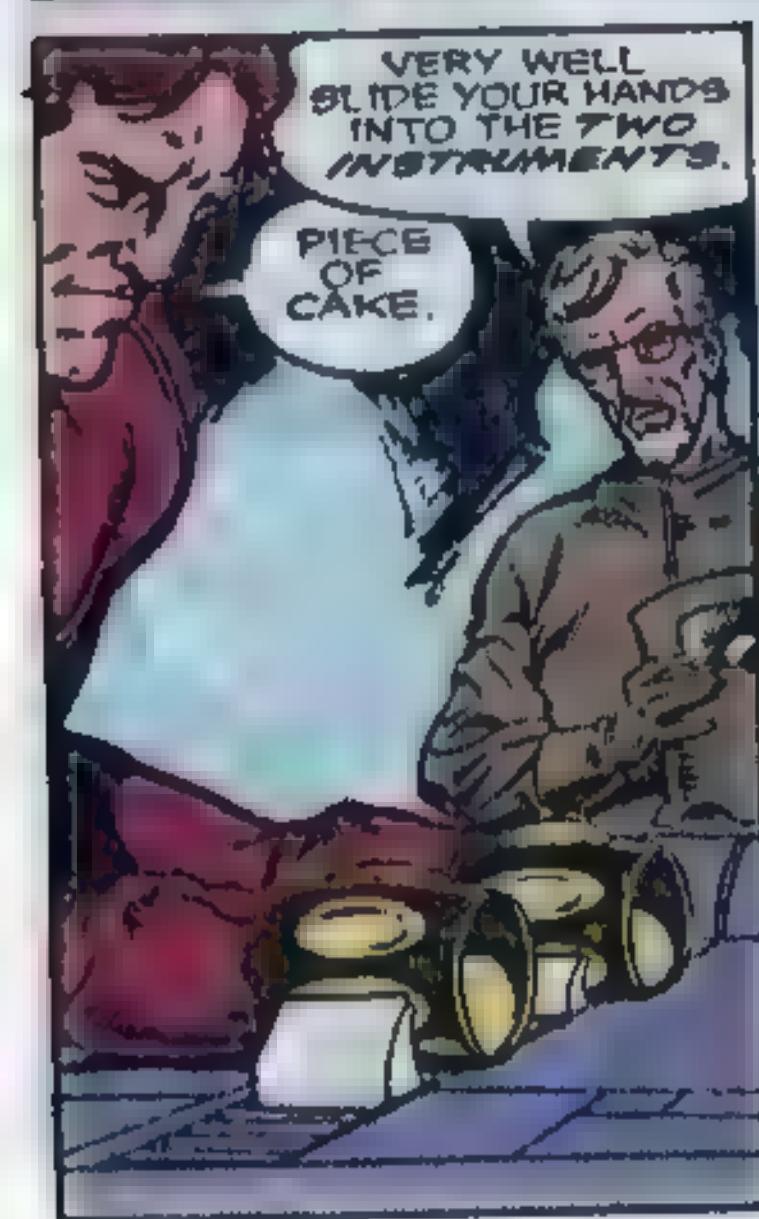
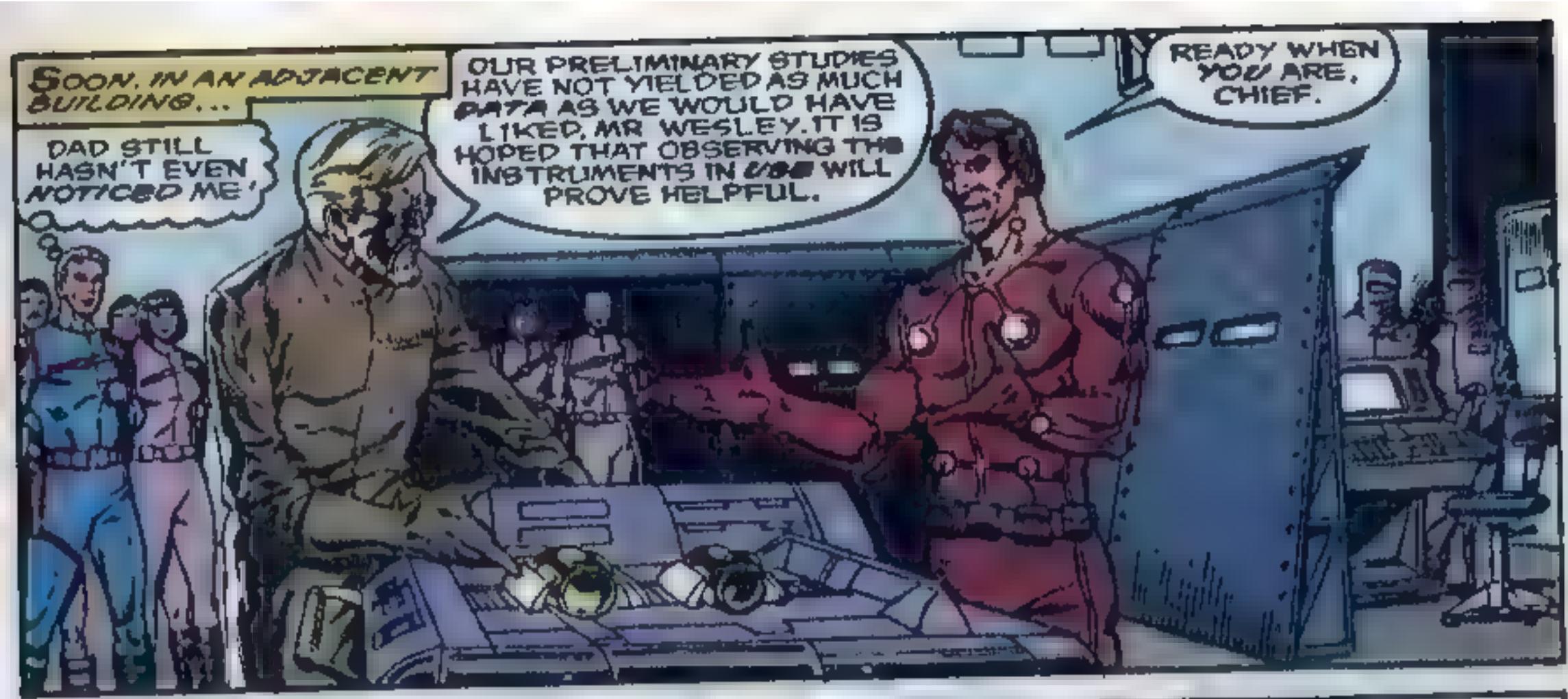
YES...

THEN I'VE JUST BEEN  
ASSIGNED SECURITY FOR  
DAD'S SHIELD PROJECT.

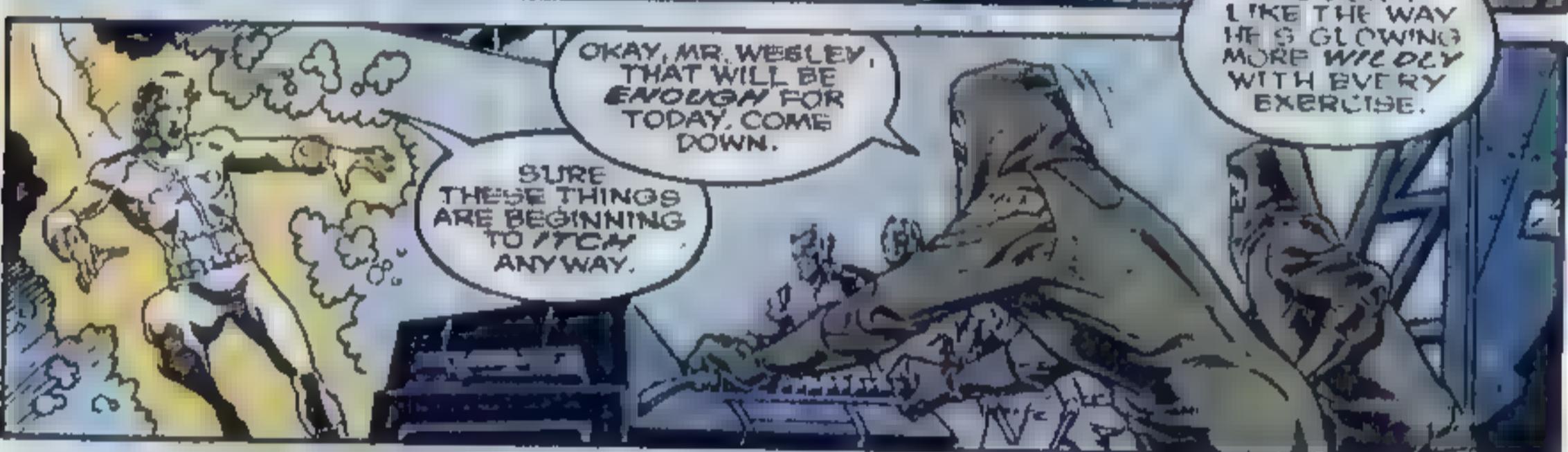
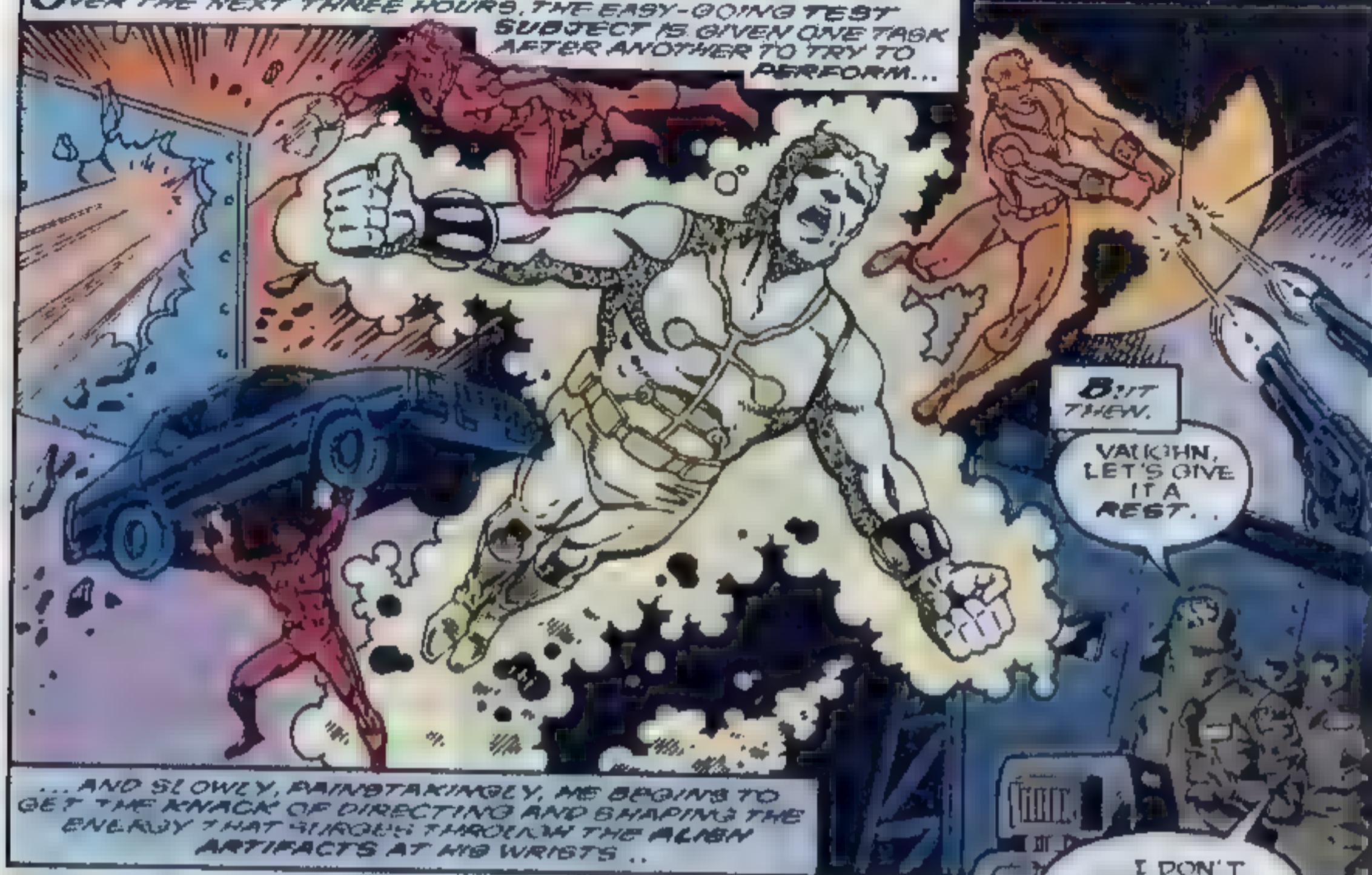
YOU THINK  
YOUR FATHER  
PULLED  
STRINGS?

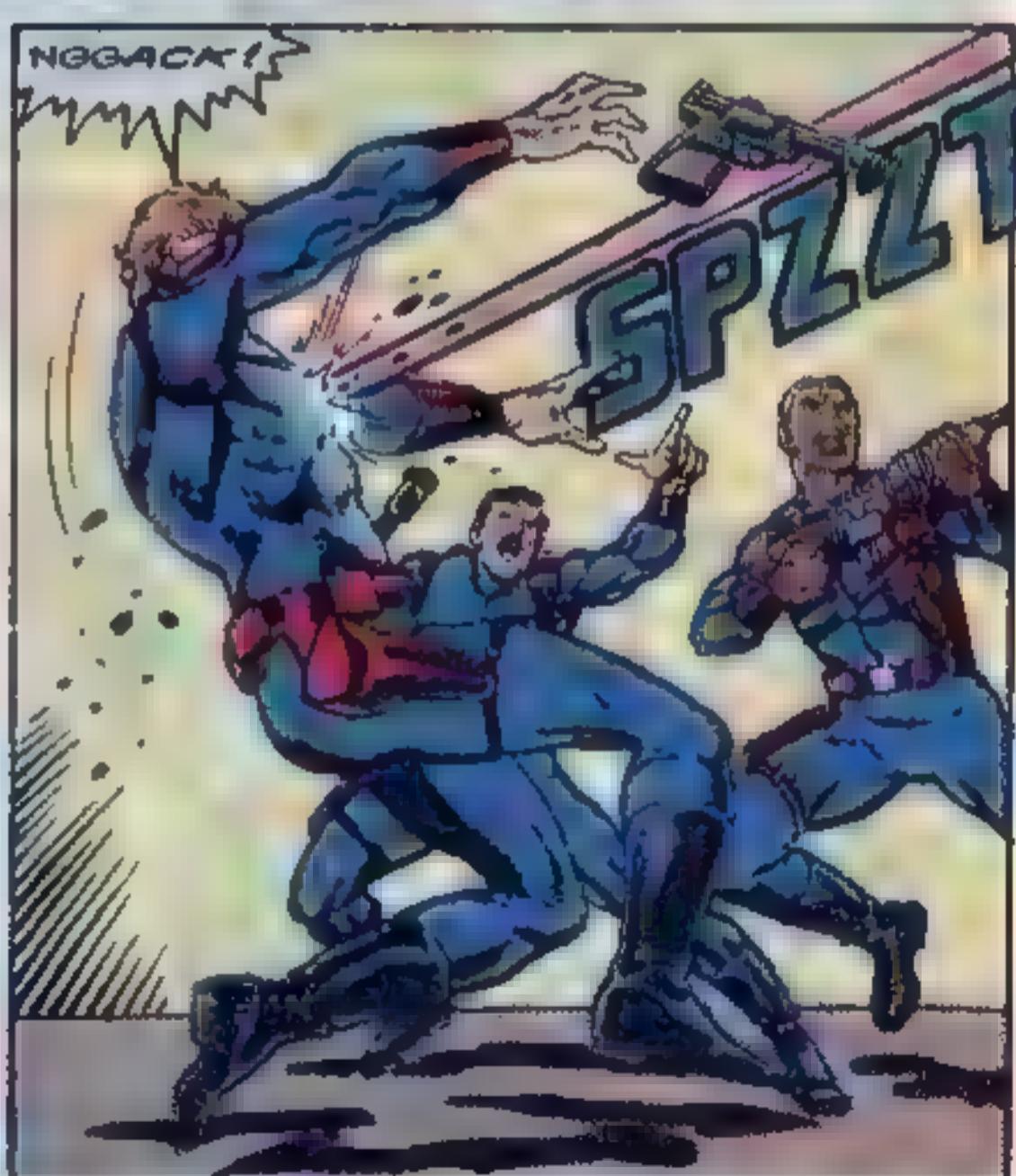
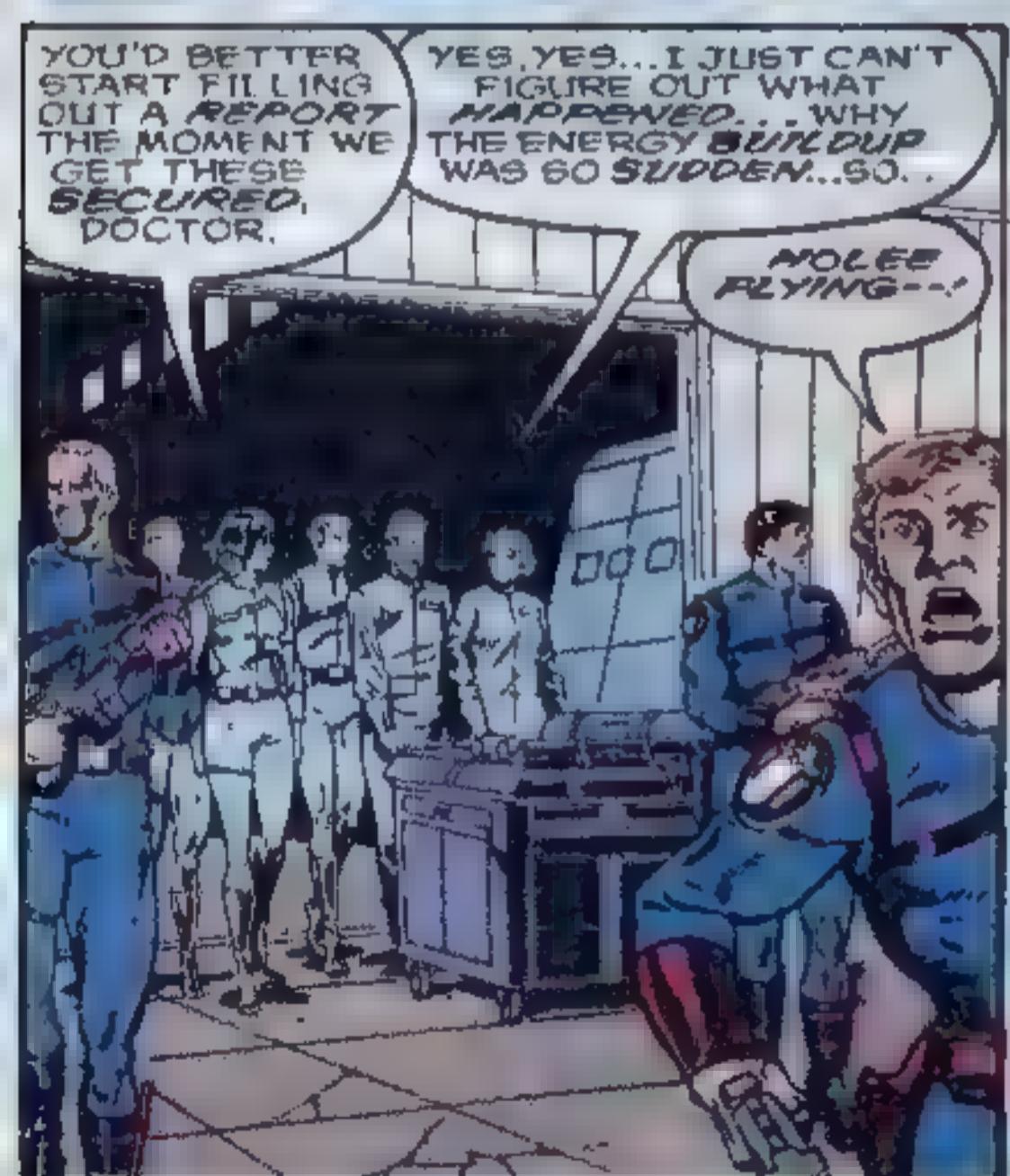
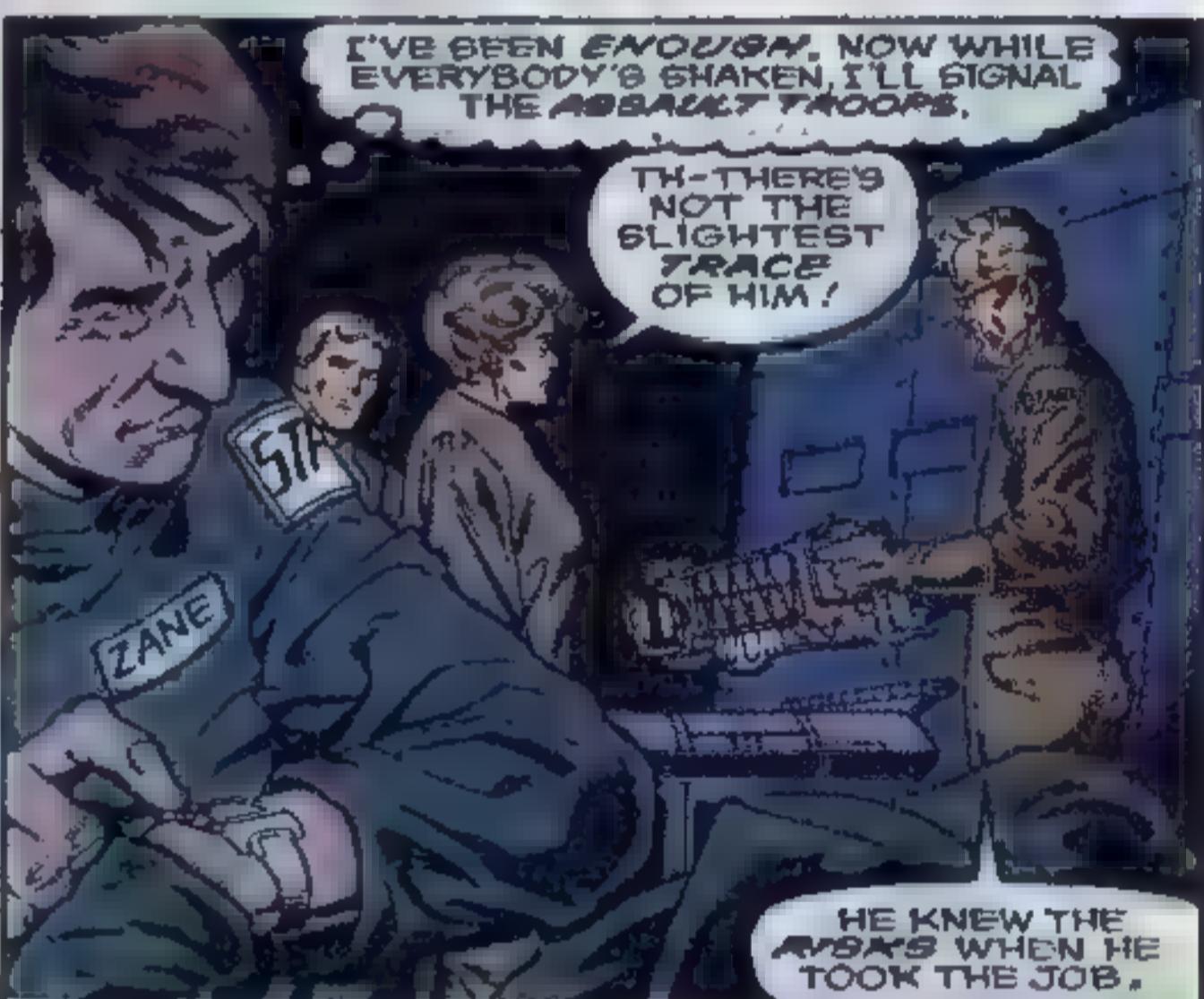
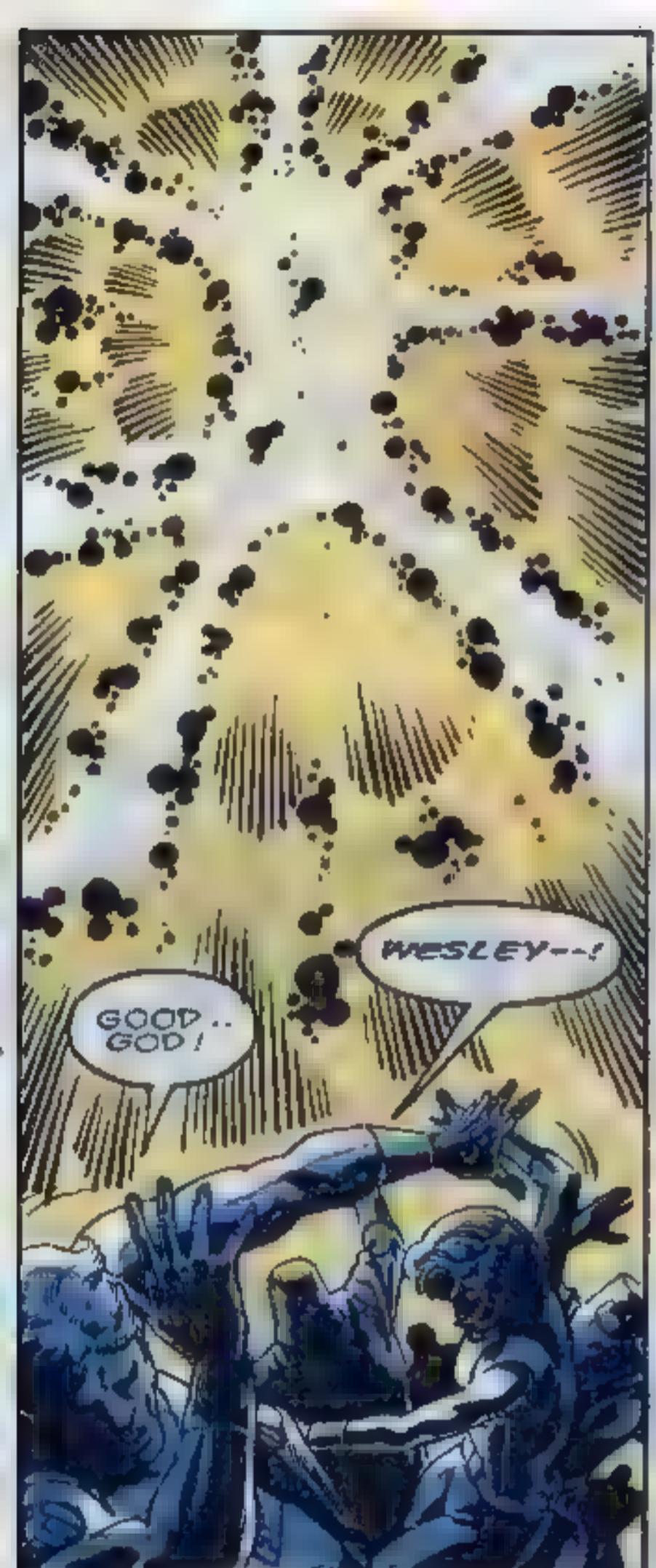
NAH...  
SOMEBODY  
AT SHIELD  
MUST'VE  
THOUGHT  
THEY WERE  
DOING ME A  
FAVOR...

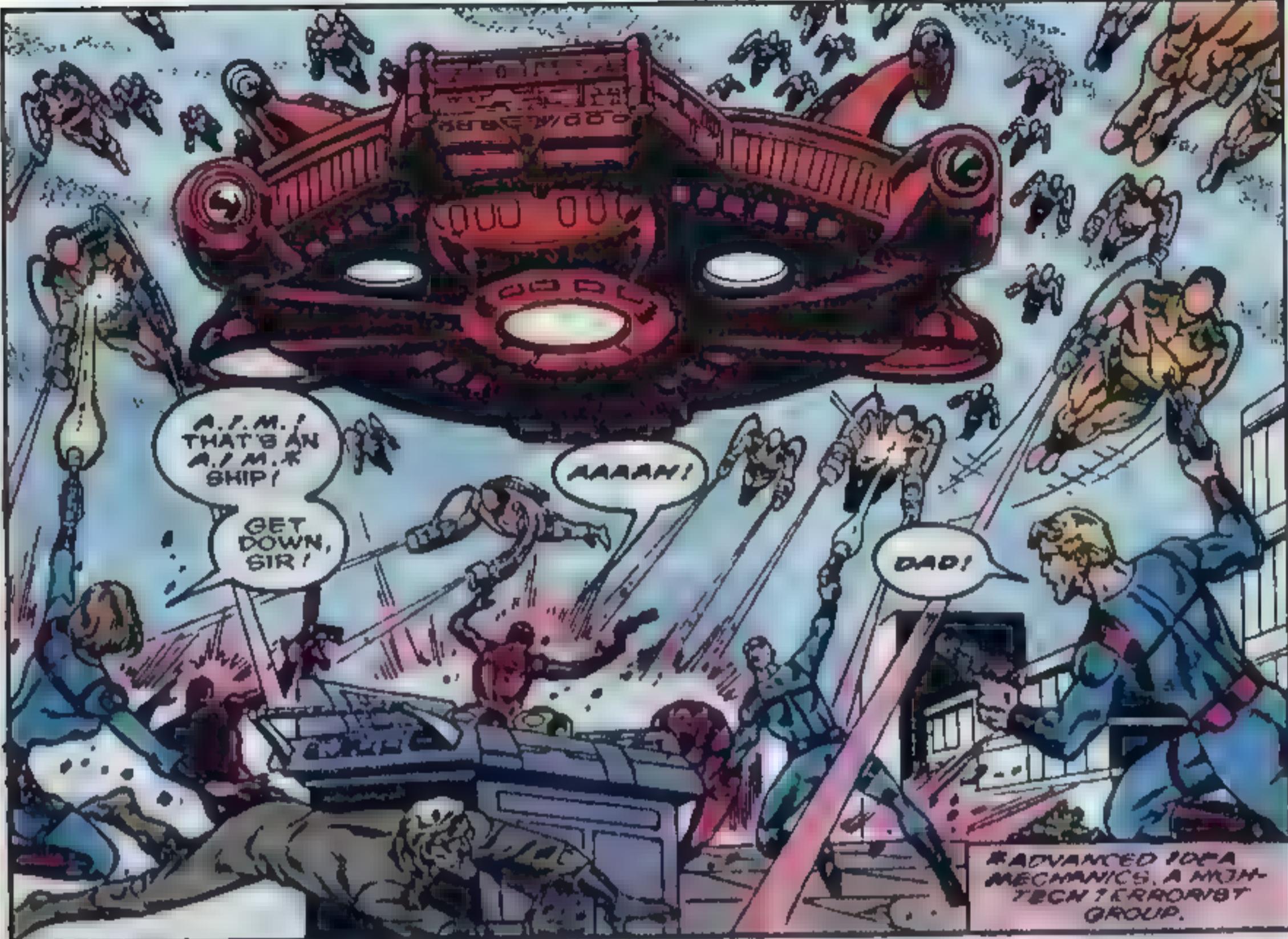


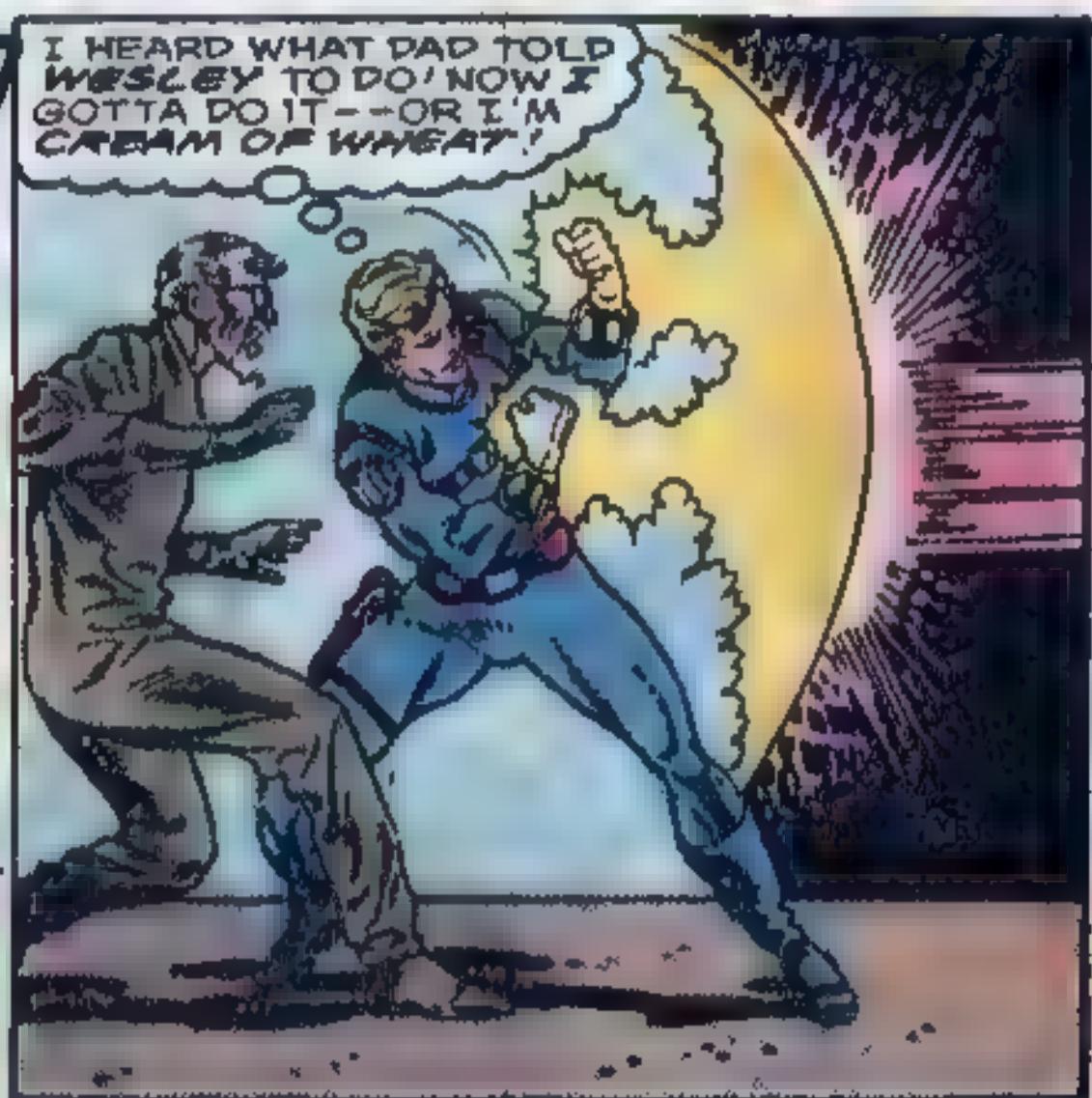
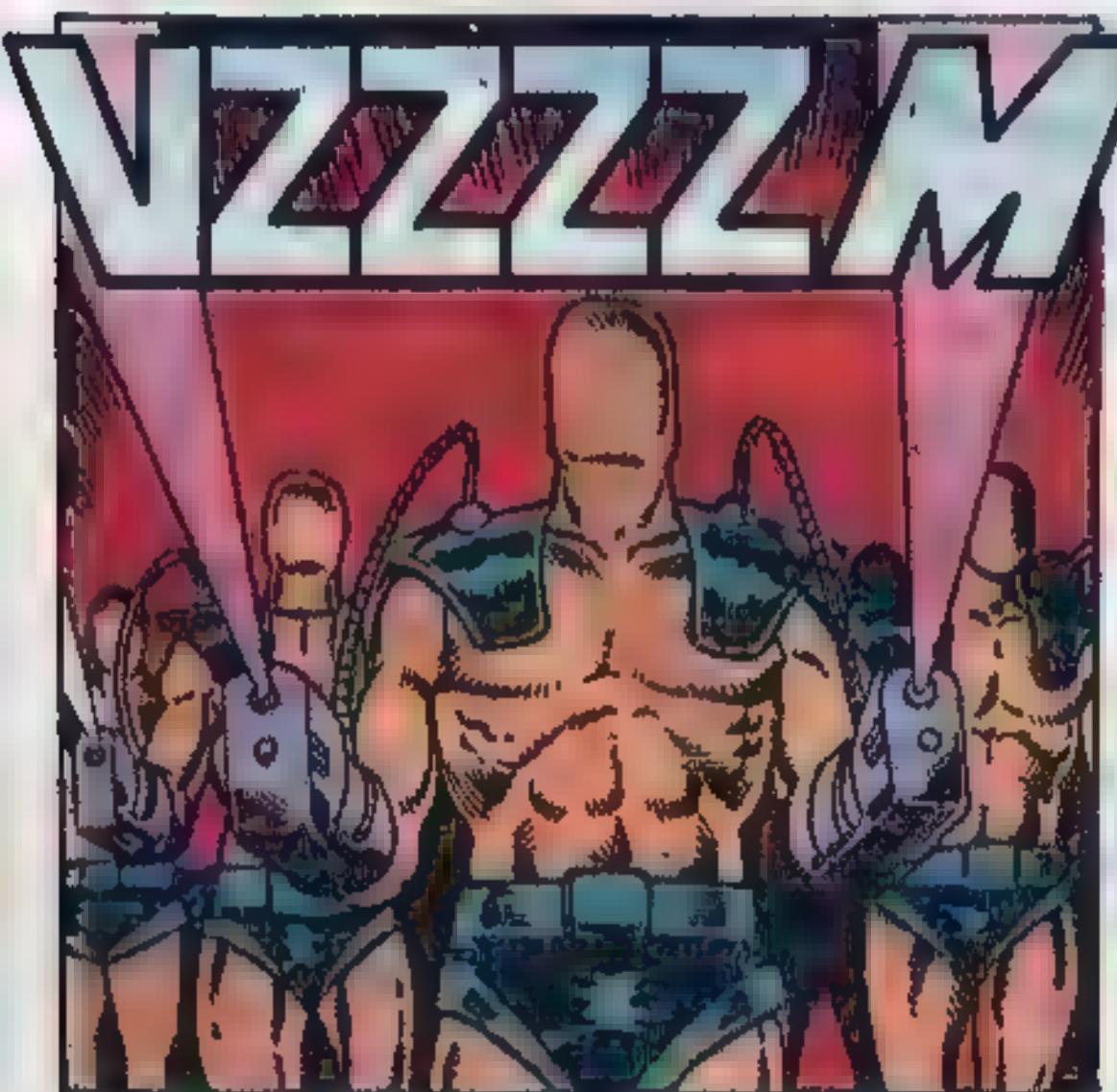
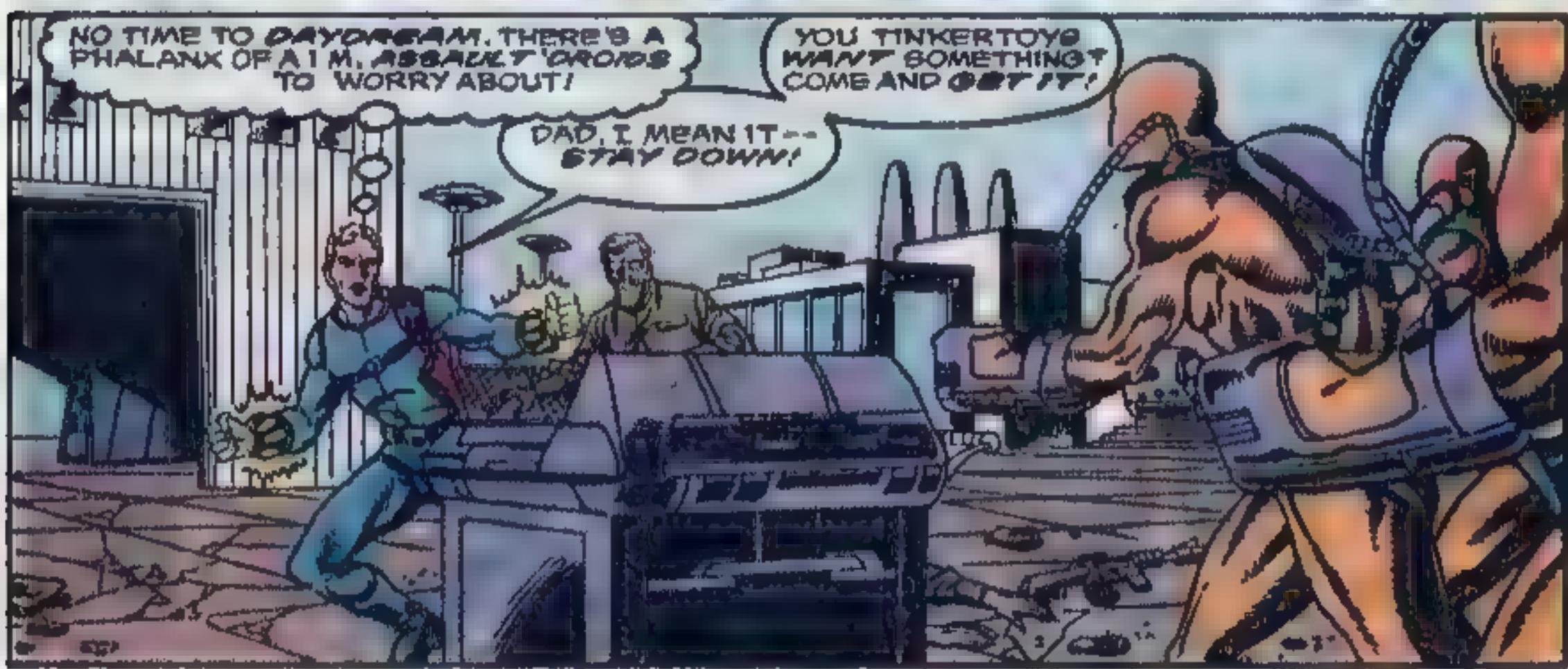
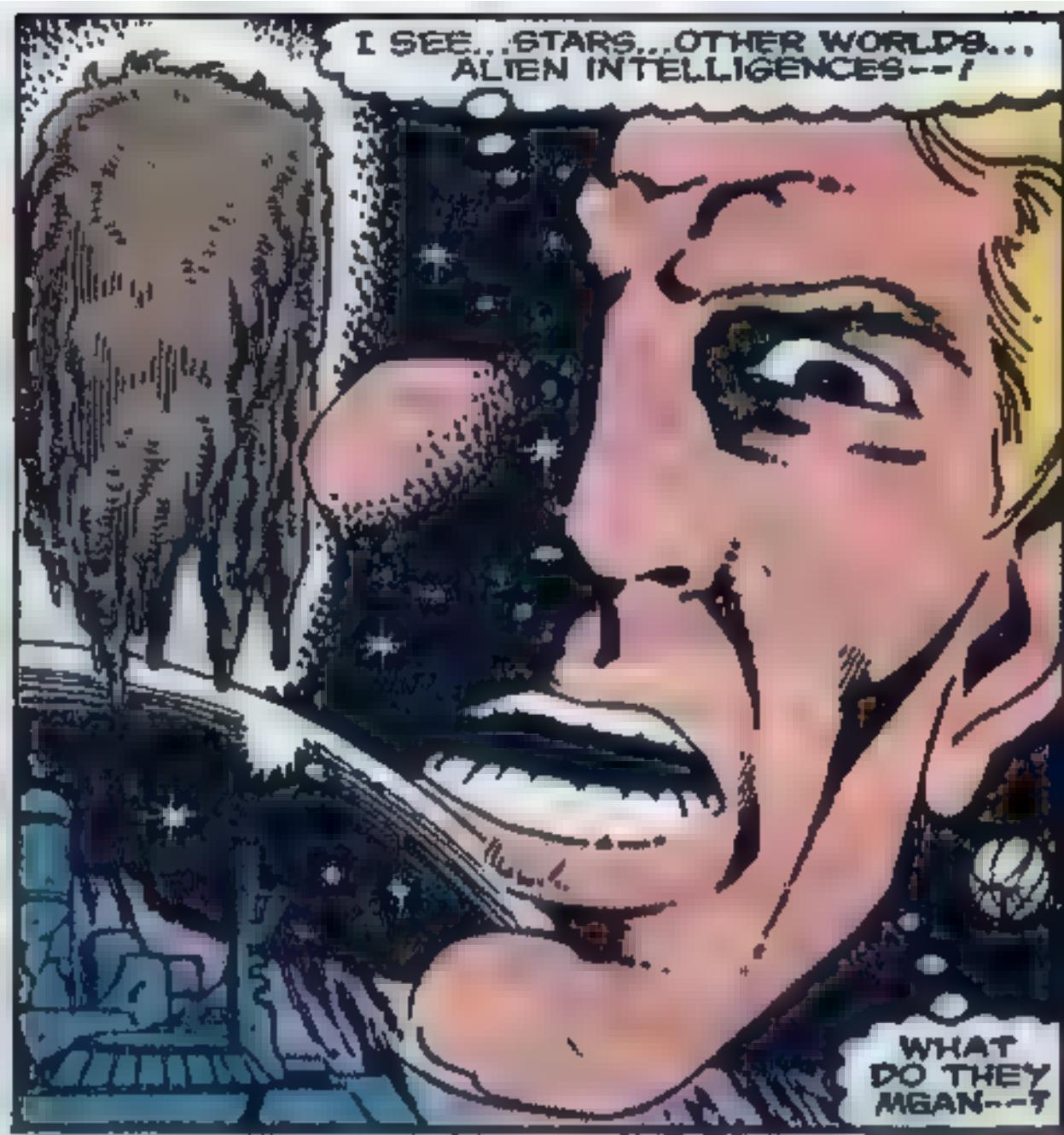


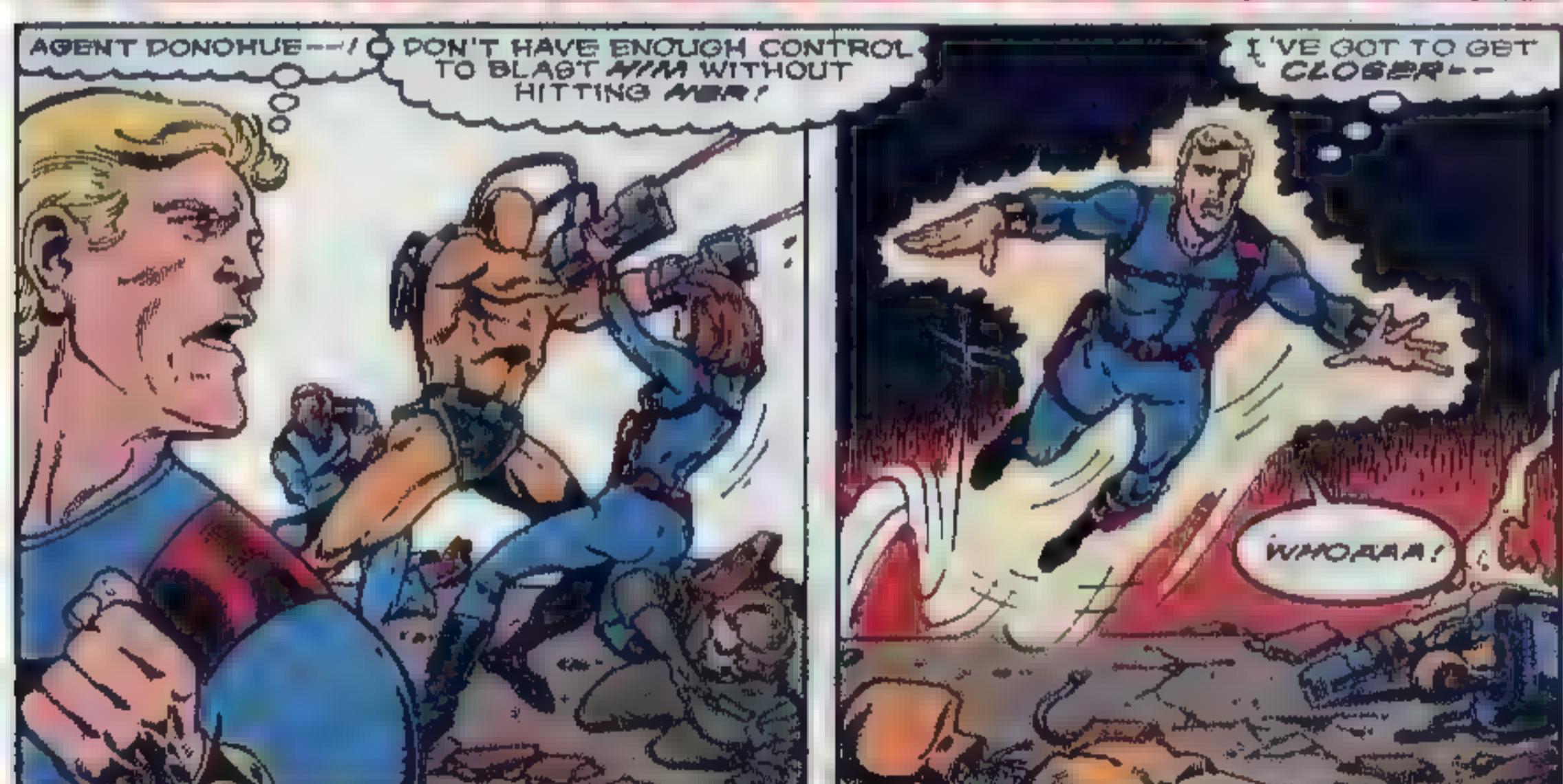
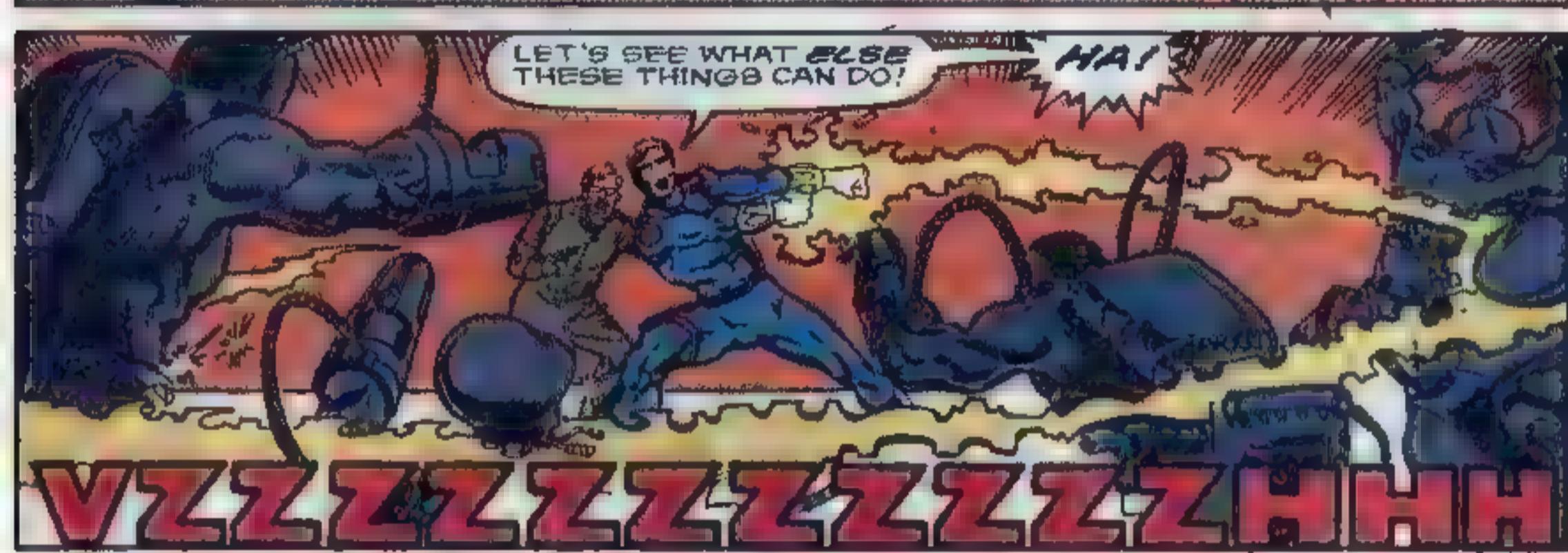
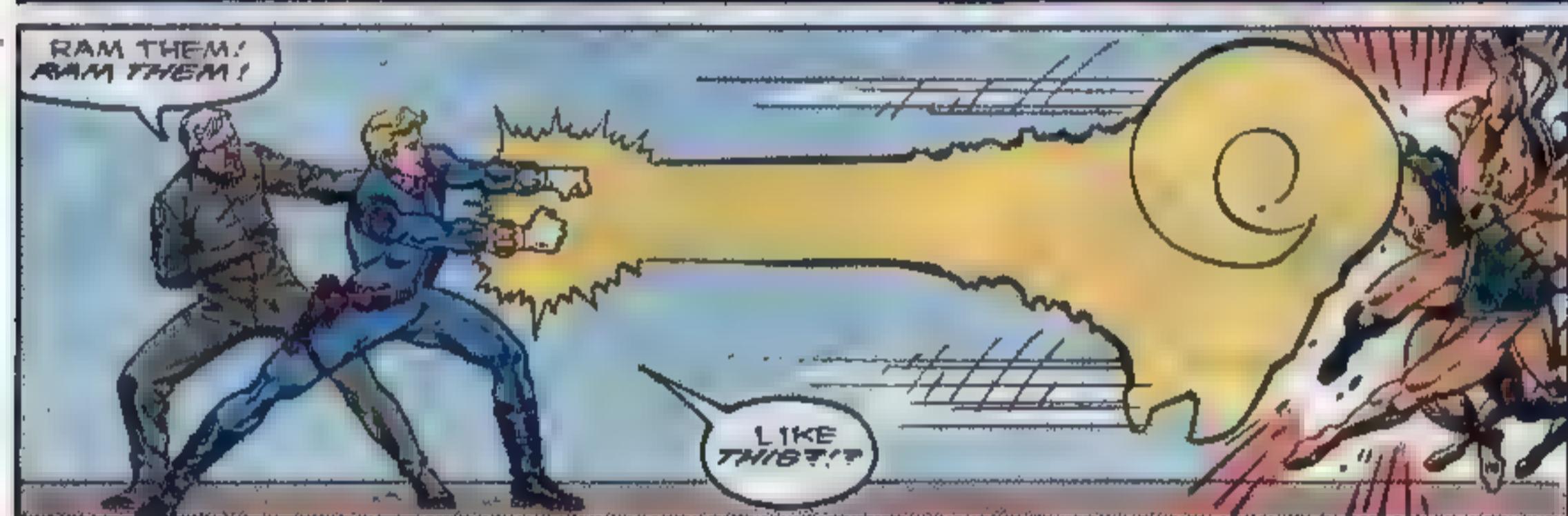
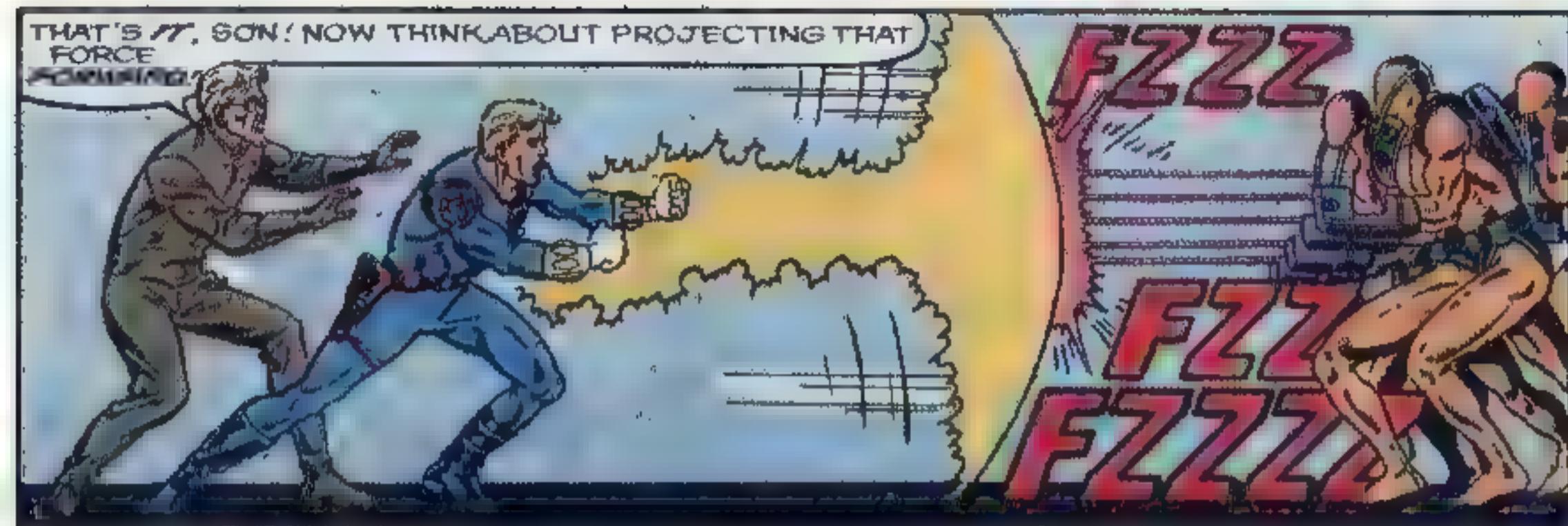
OVER THE NEXT THREE HOURS, THE EASY-GOING TEST SUBJECT IS GIVEN ONE TASK AFTER ANOTHER TO TRY TO PERFORM...

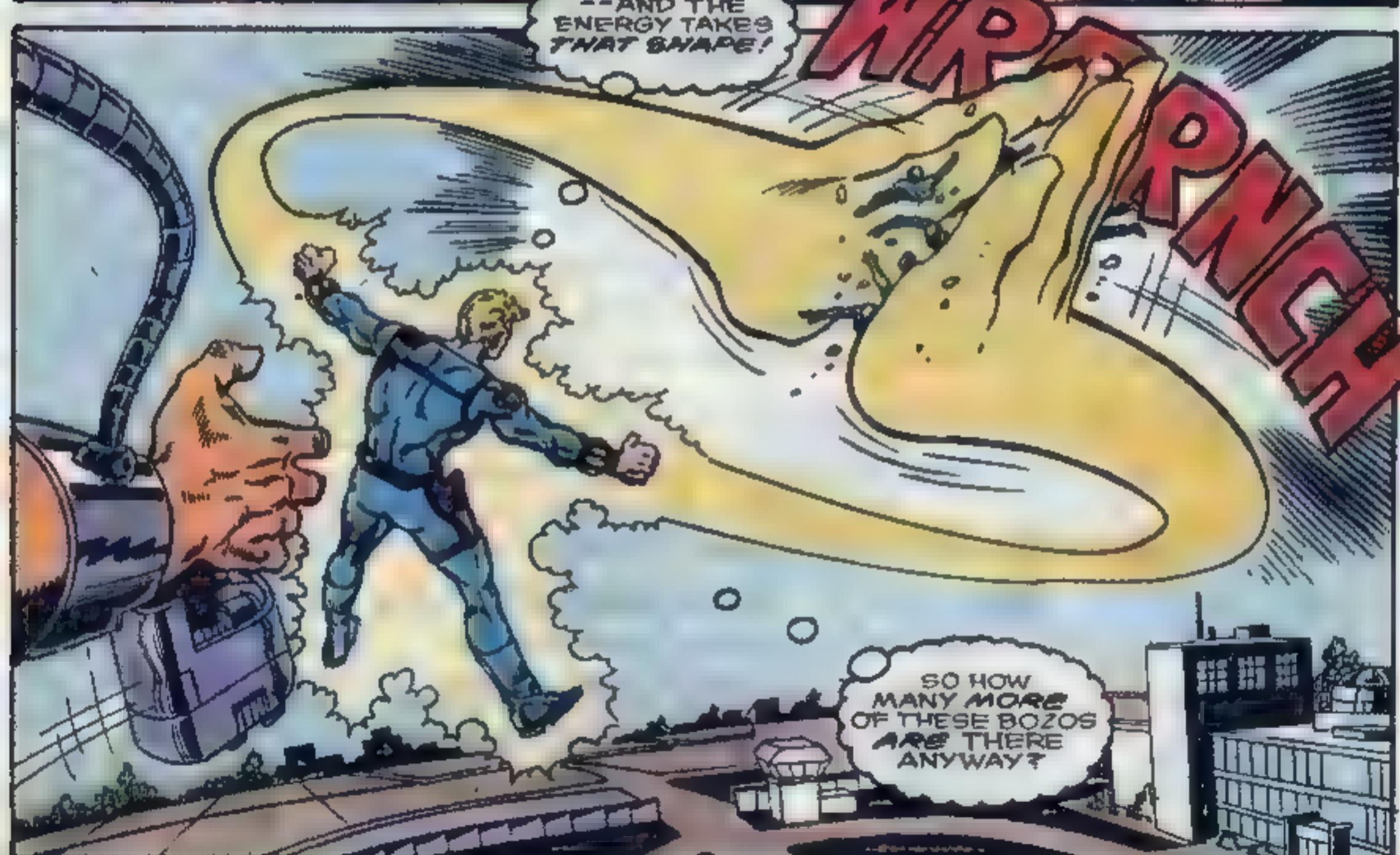
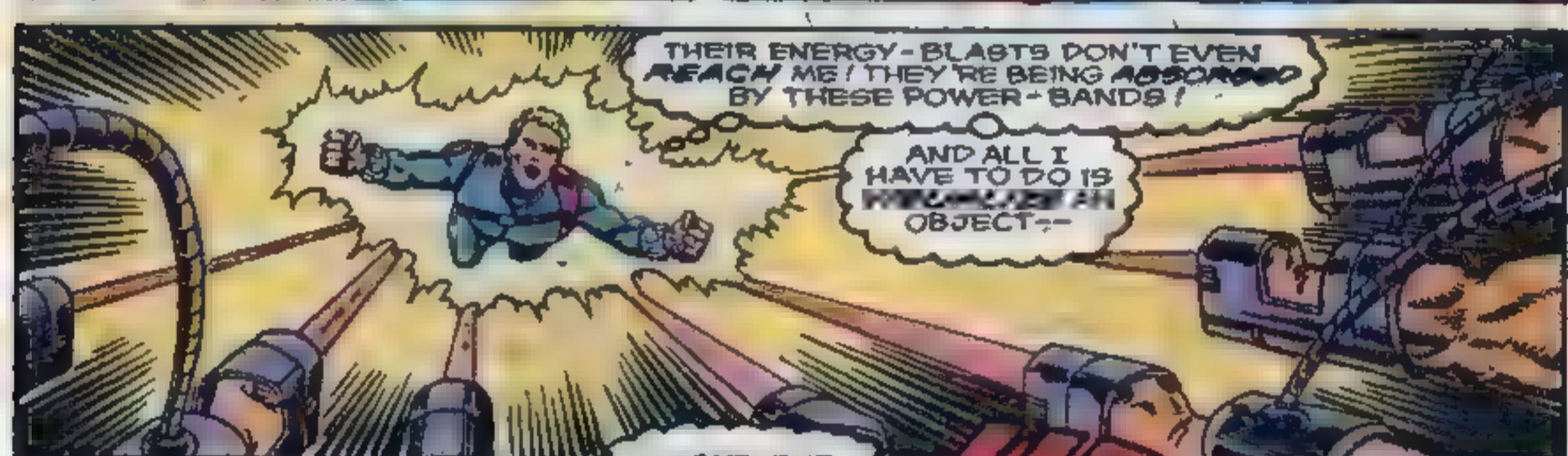
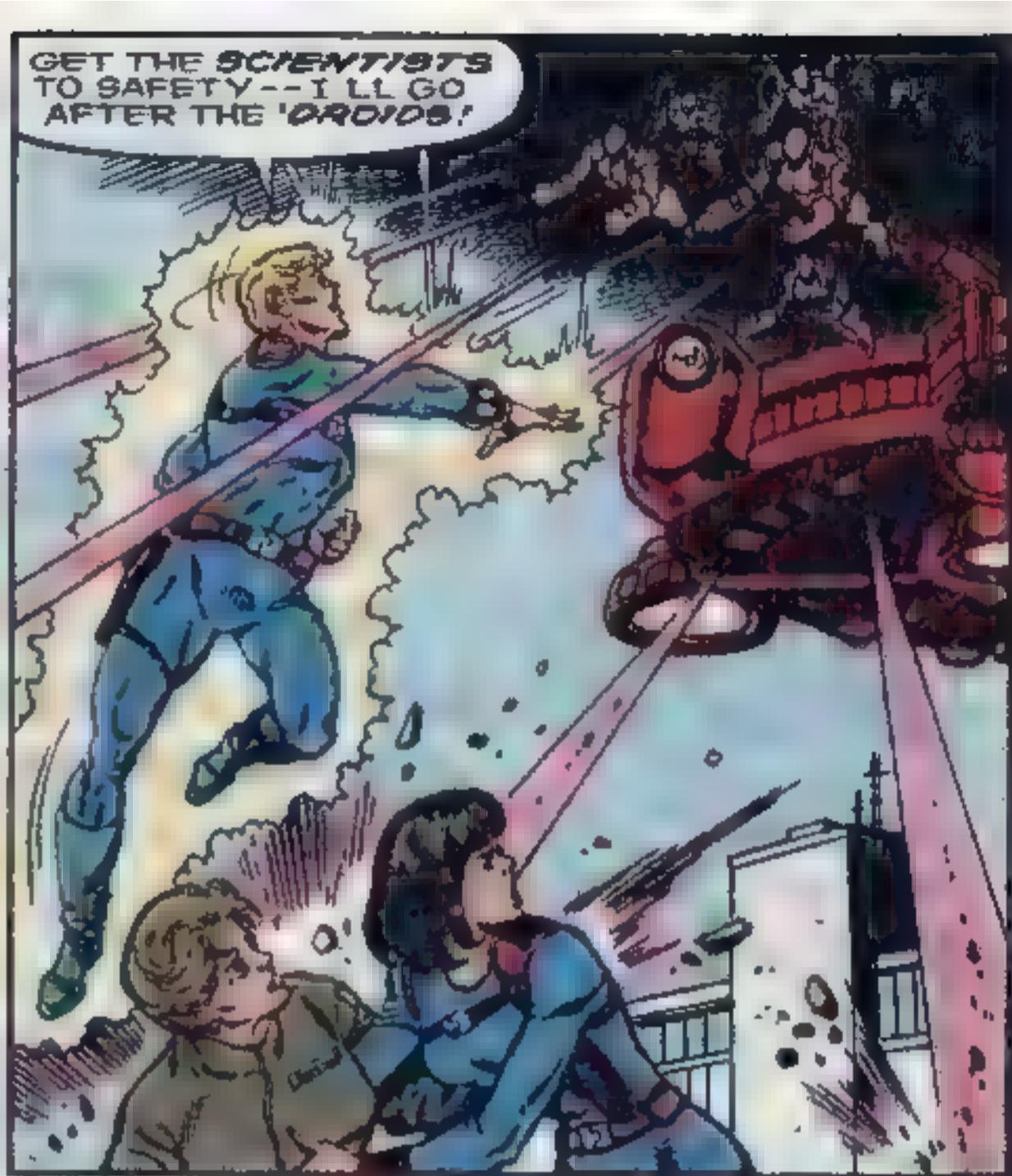
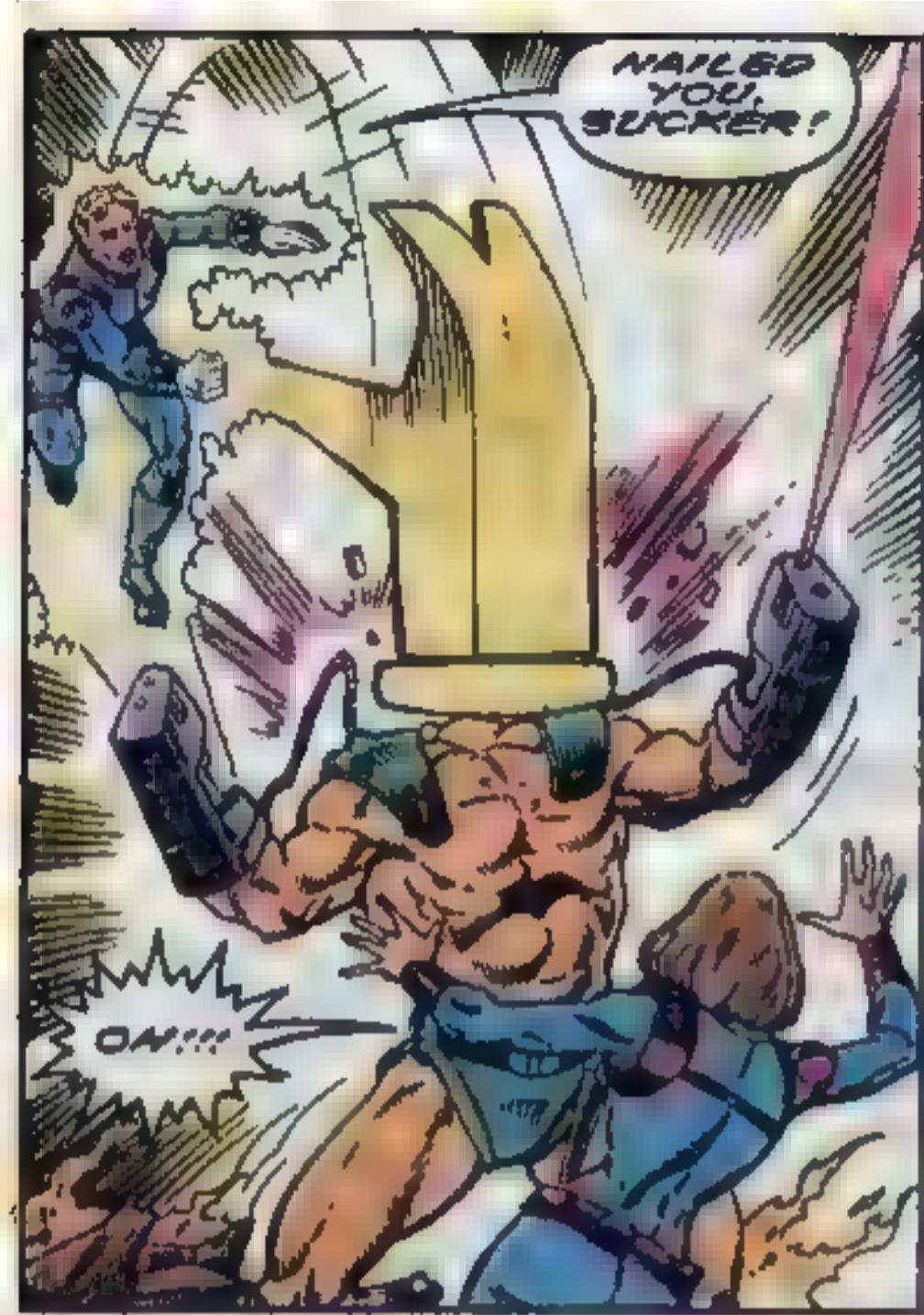


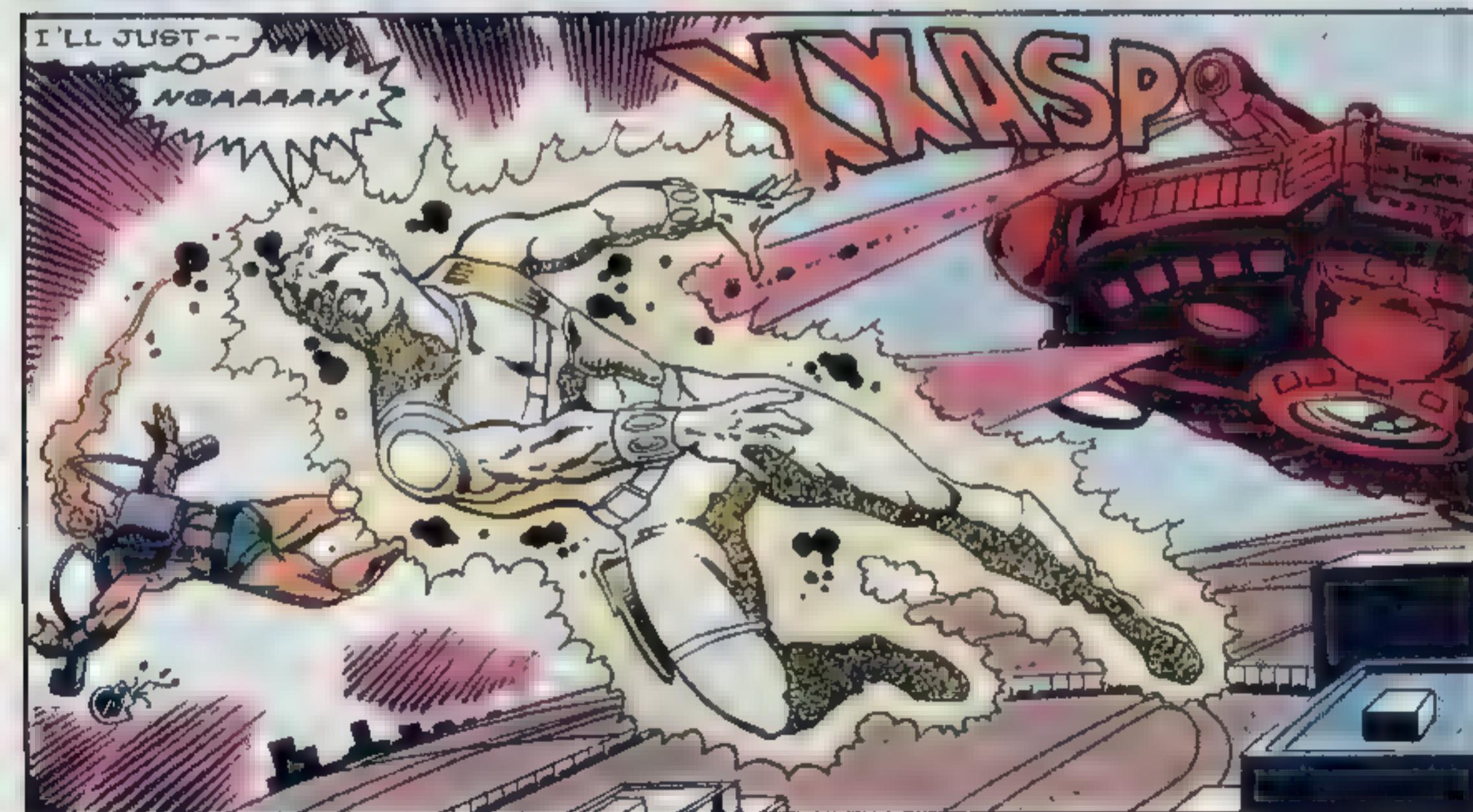
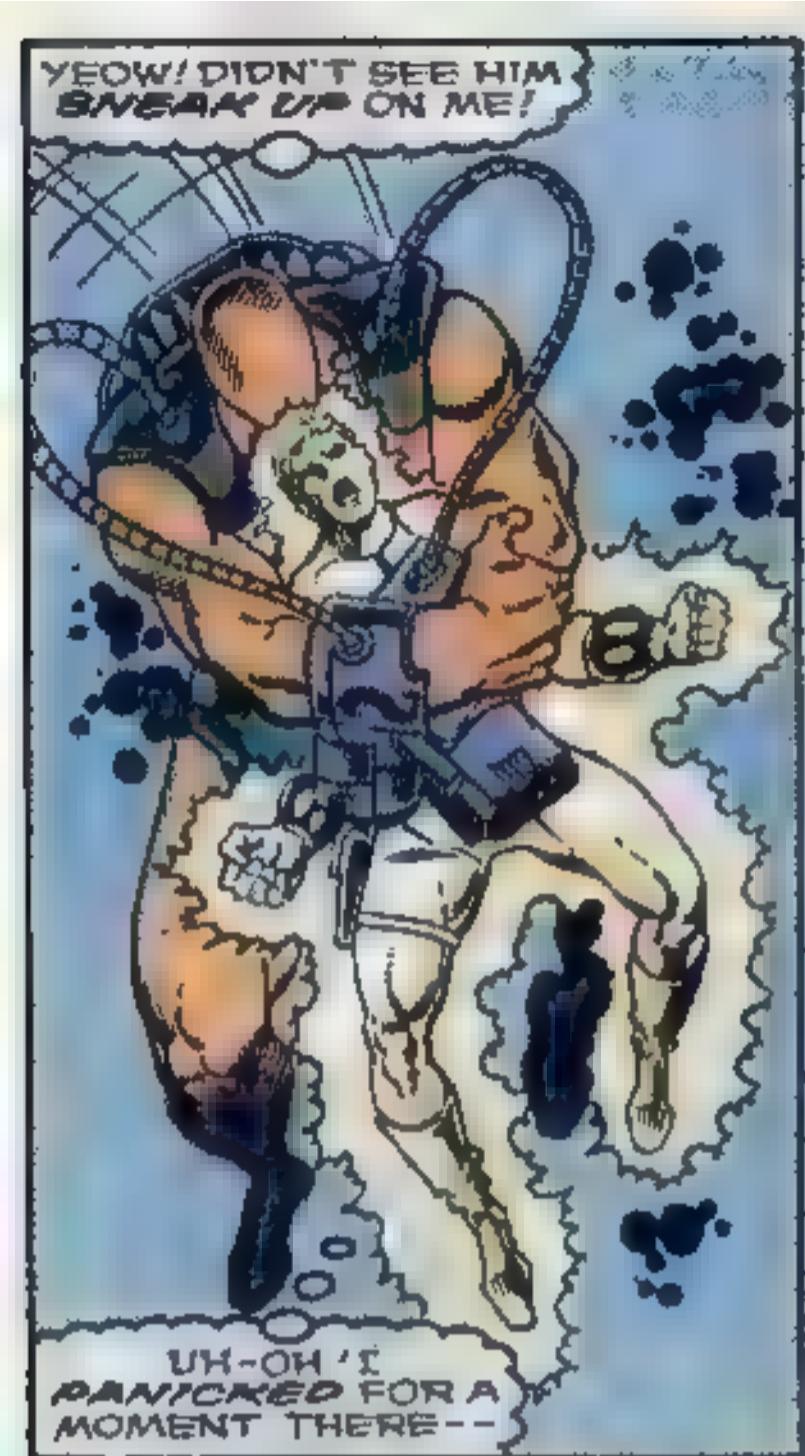


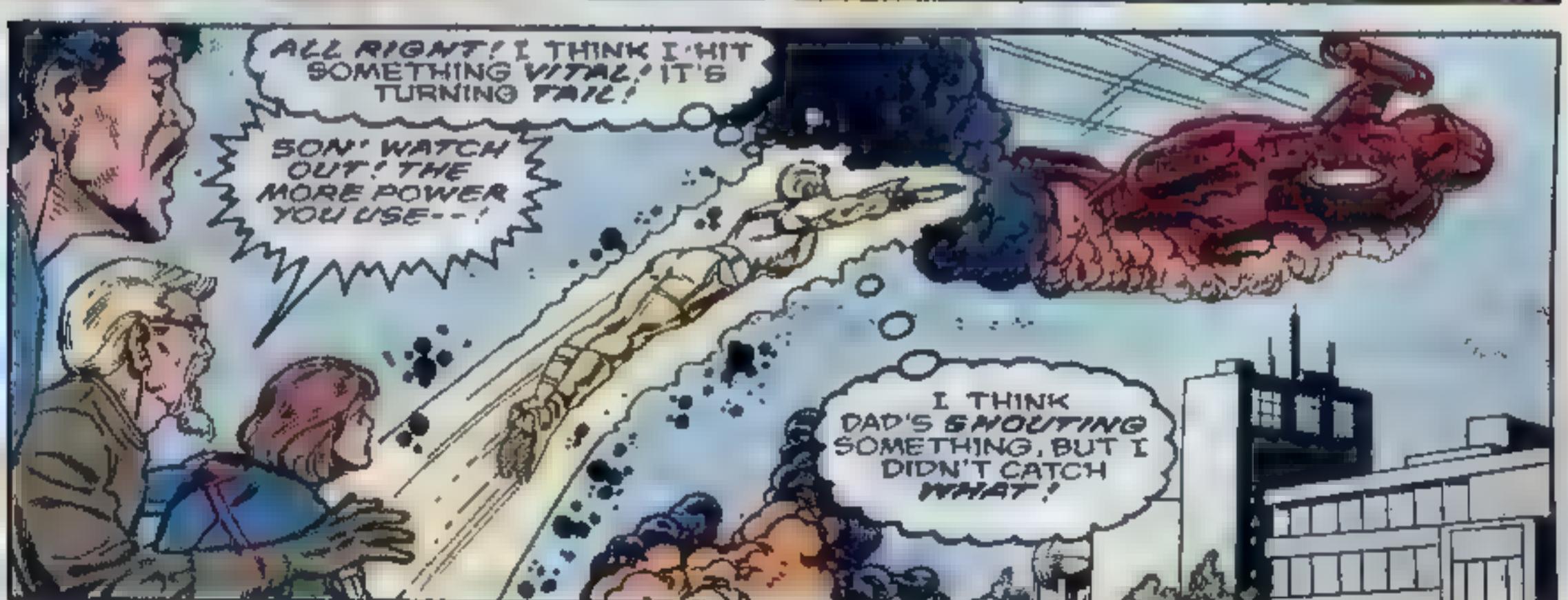
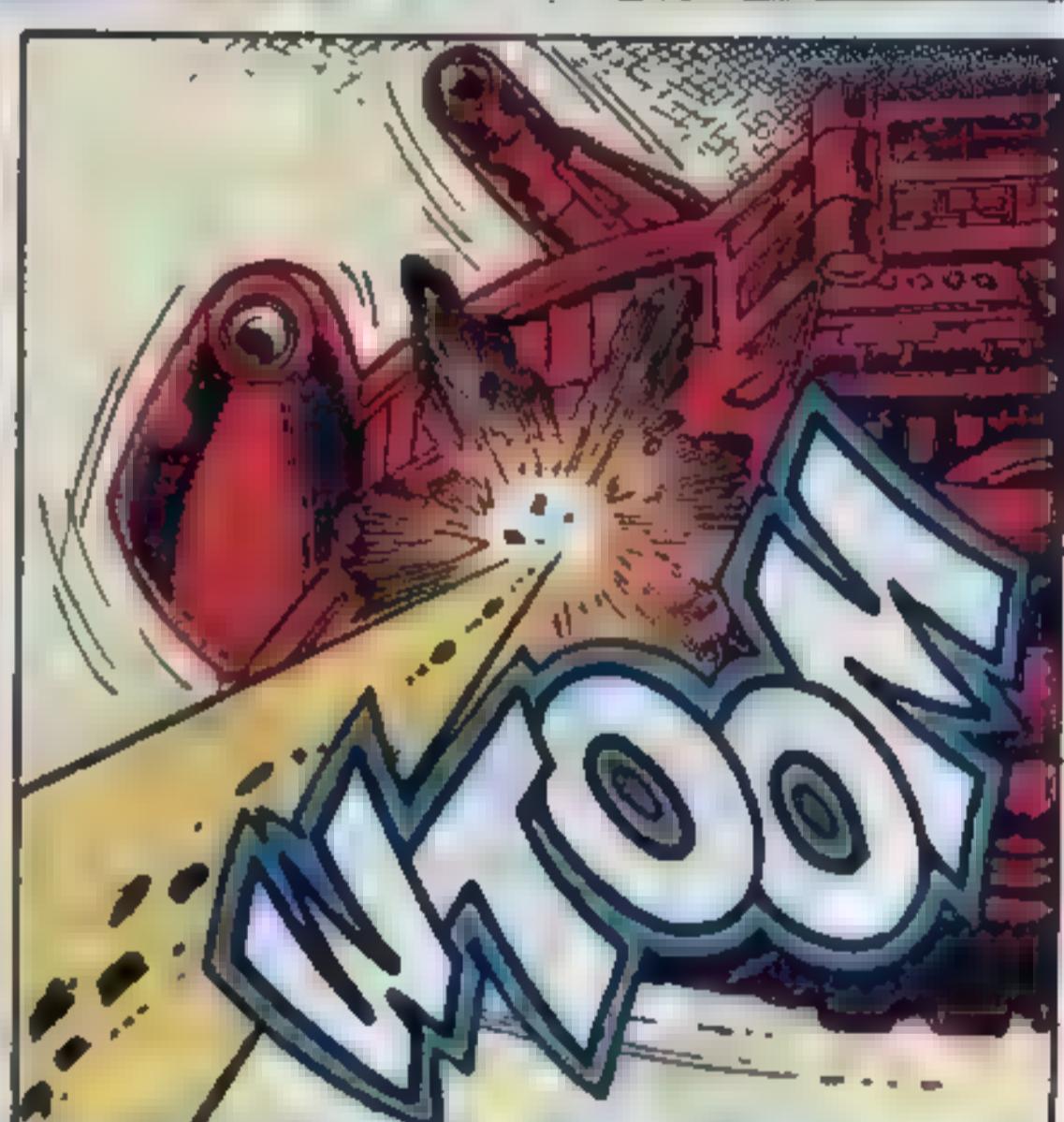
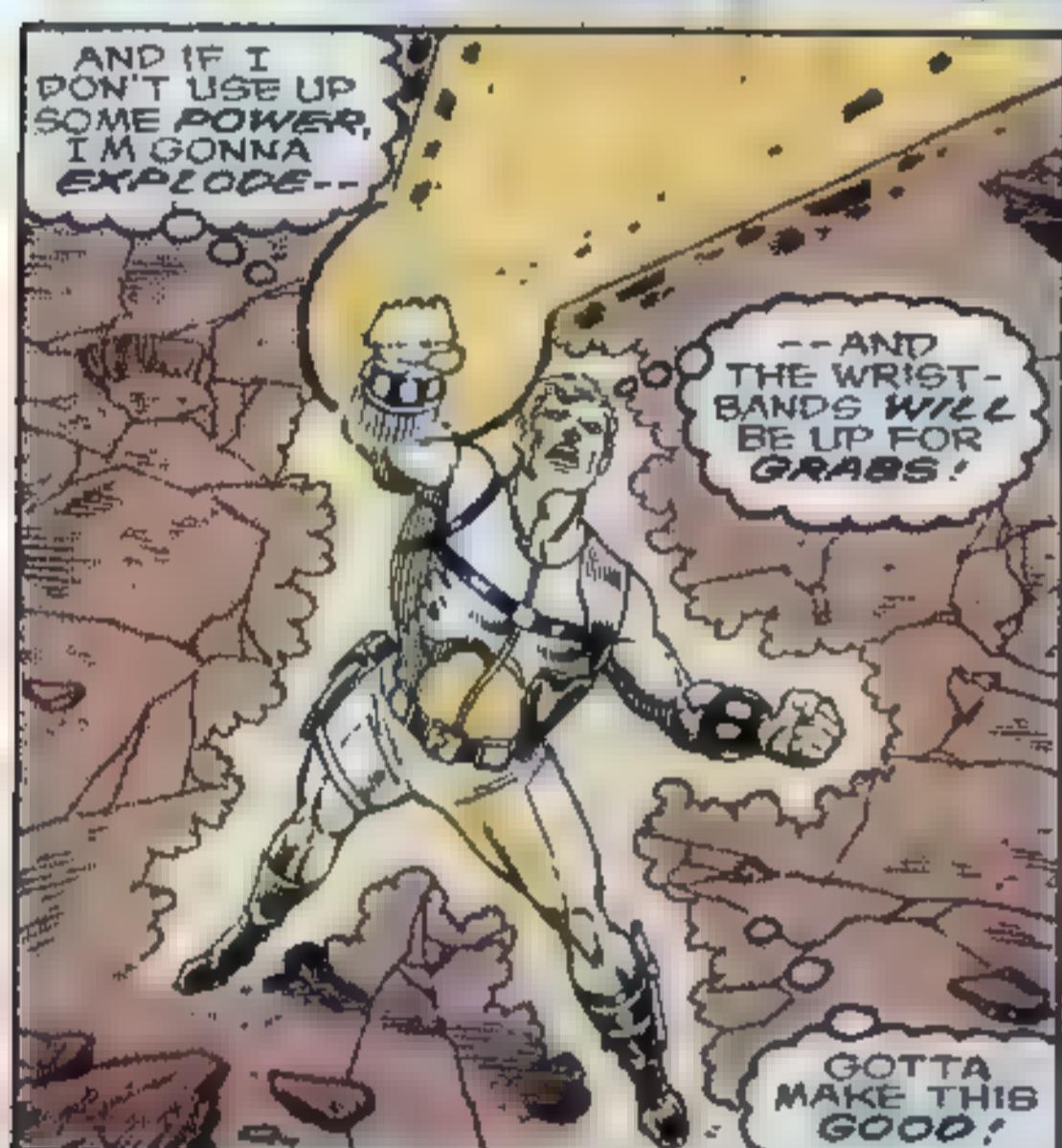
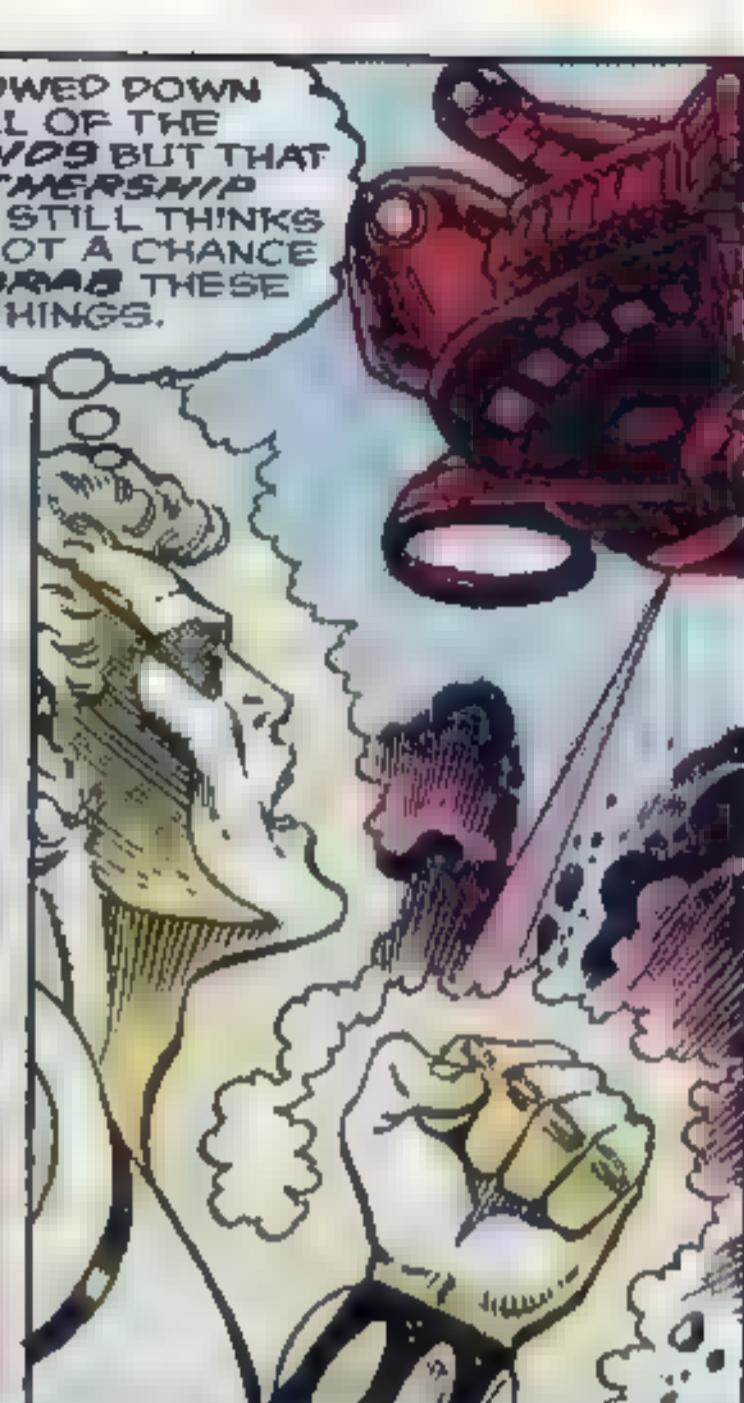
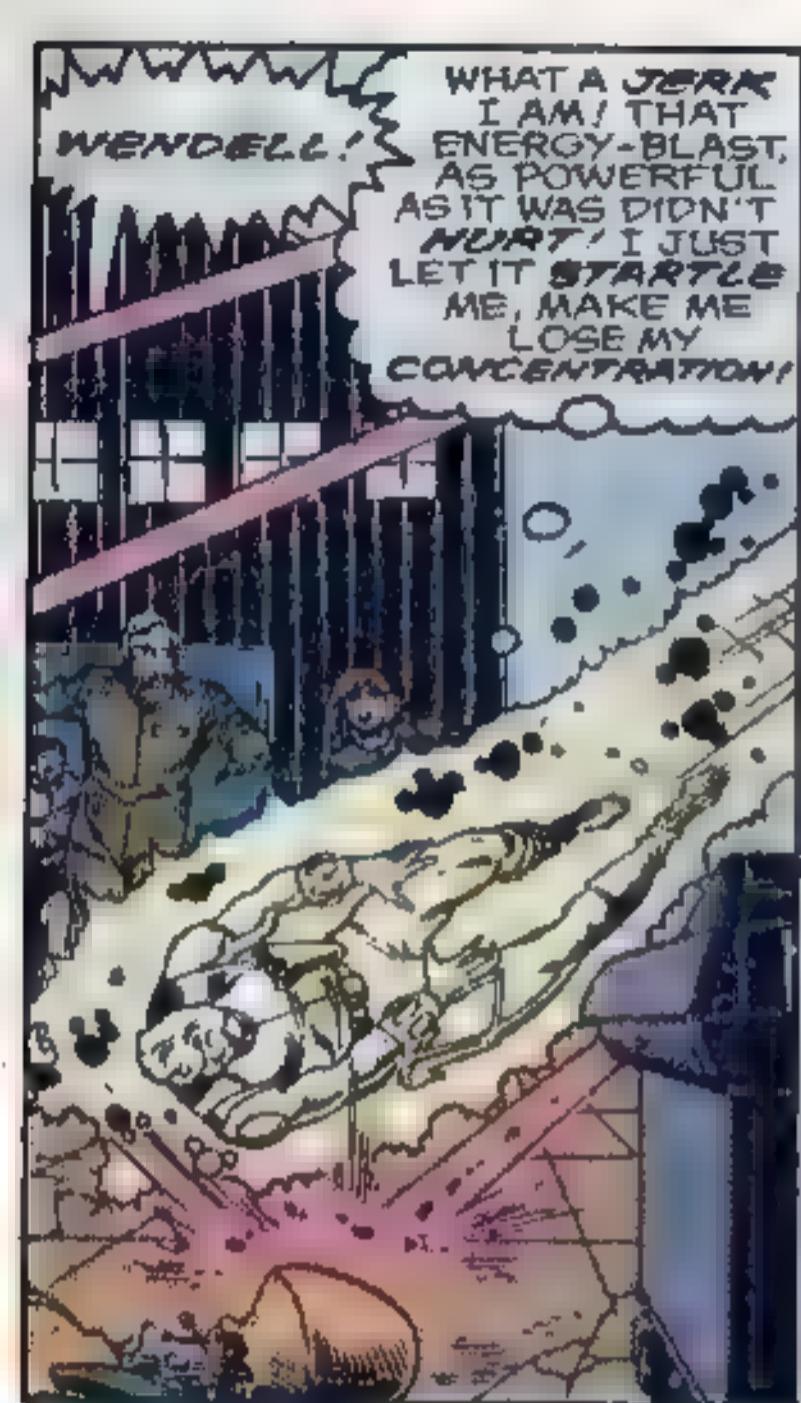




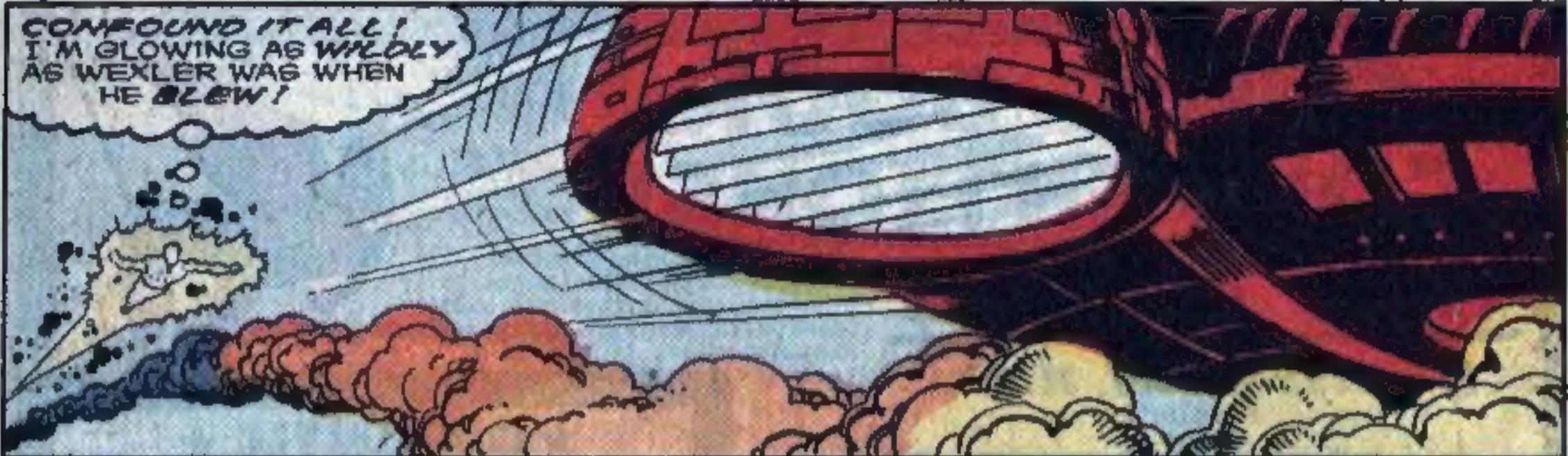






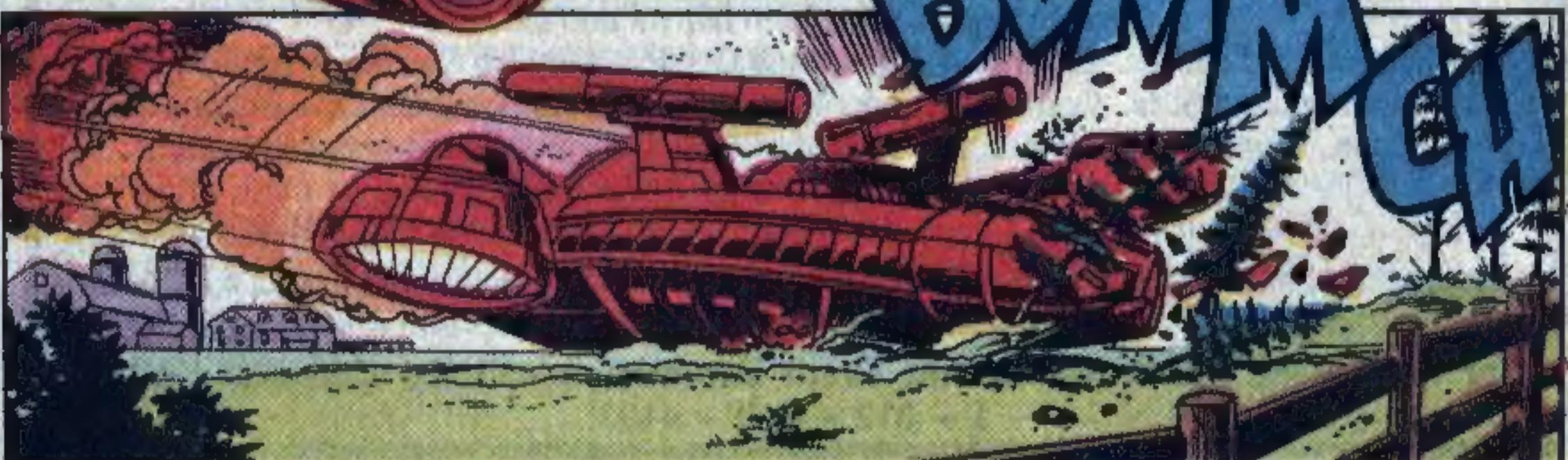
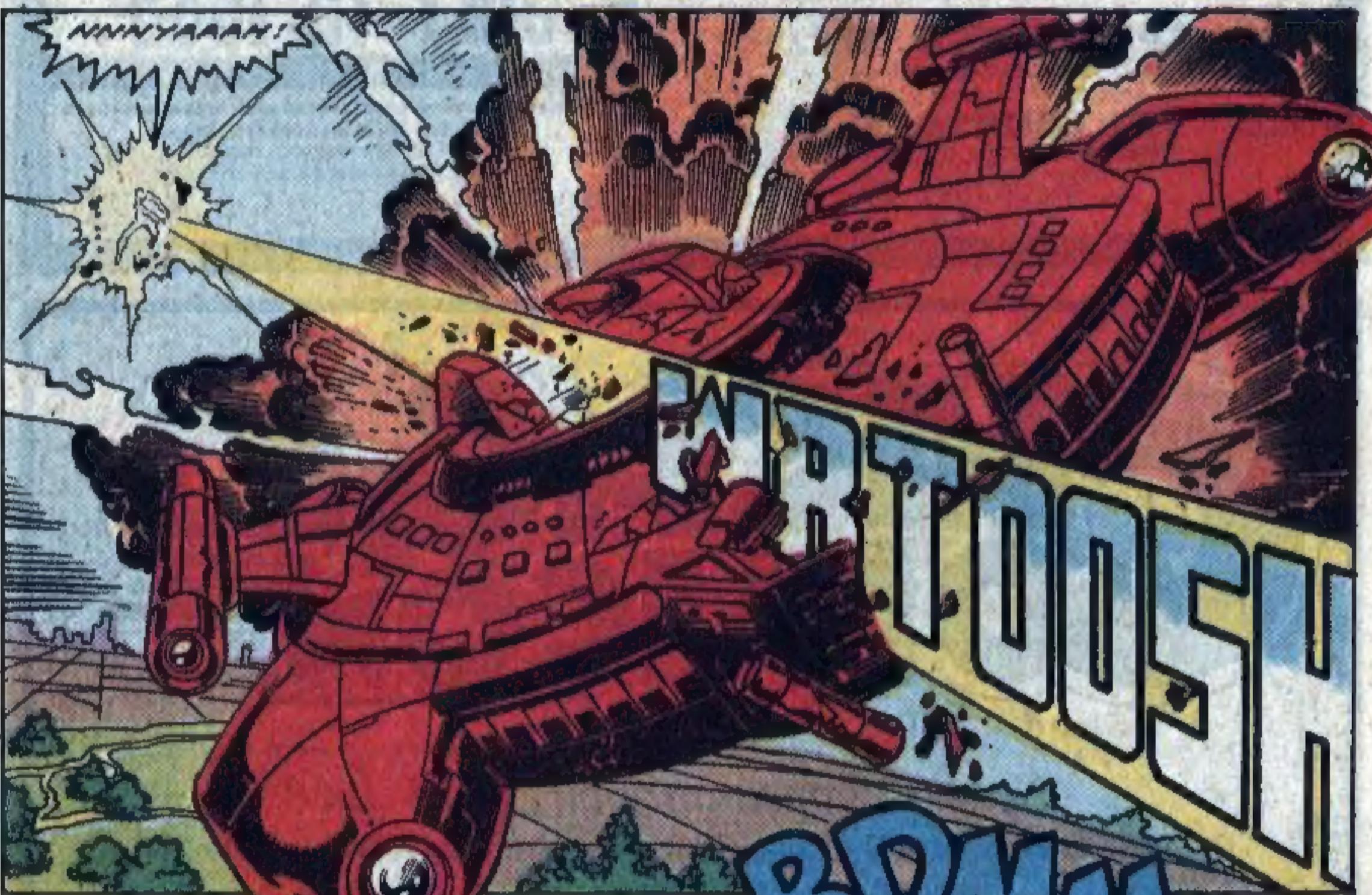


CONFOUND IT ALL!  
I'M GLOWING AS WILDLY  
AS WEXLER WAS WHEN  
HE BLOW!



I'VE GOT TO EXPEND  
THE CRITICAL ENERGY--  
NOW!

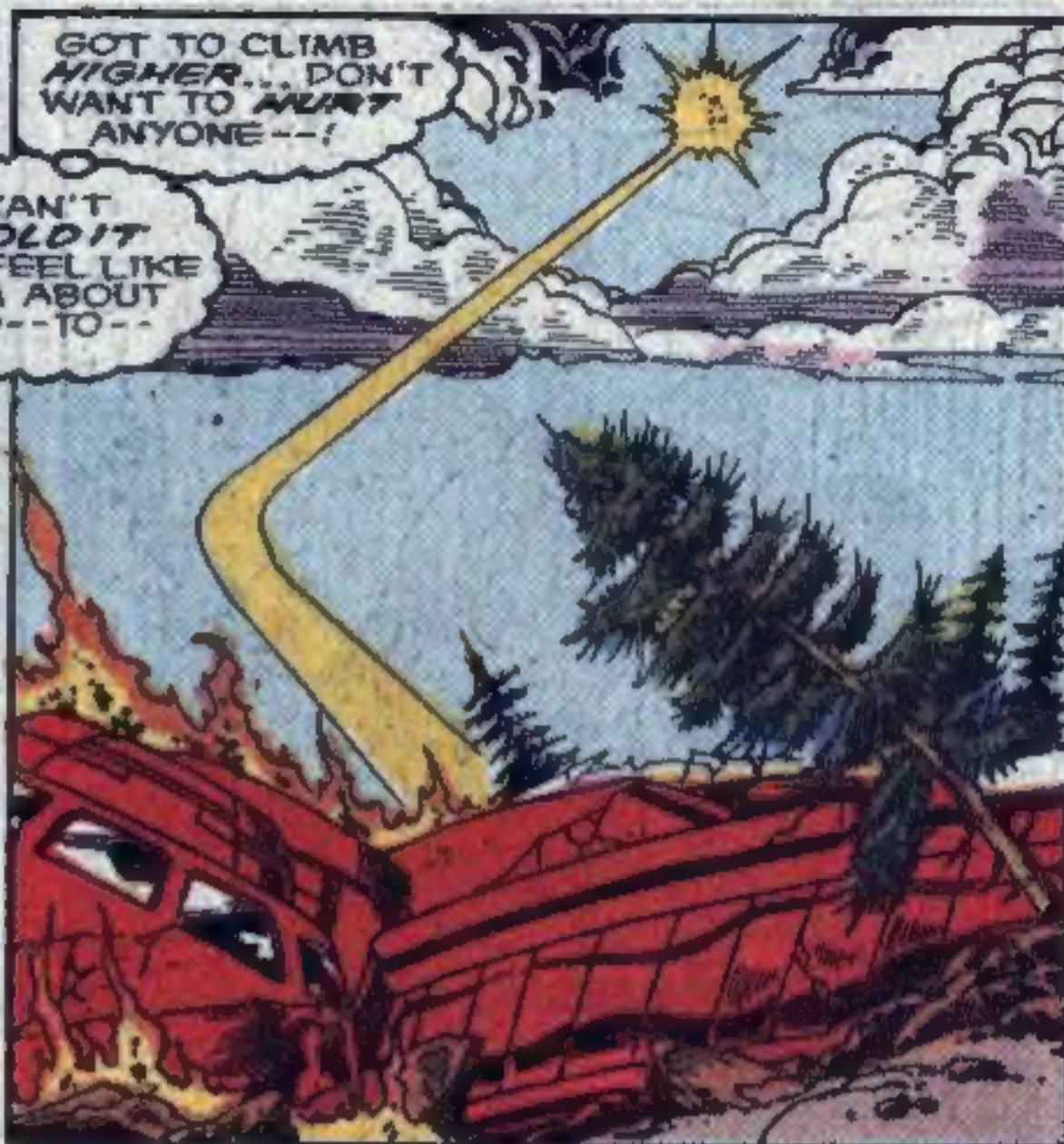
CONCENTRATE.  
BLOW OFF ALL I CAN  
AT ONCE...



WHA... NO--! I BLEW OFF ALL I COULD BUT I'M--I'M STILL ERUPTING WITH POWER, MORE THAN EVER!

GOT TO CLIMB HIGHER... DON'T WANT TO ALERT ANYONE--!

CAN'T HOLD IT NOW! FEEL LIKE I'M ABOUT TO--TO--



BYE, MOM--HOPE YOU'RE STILL PROUD OF ME!

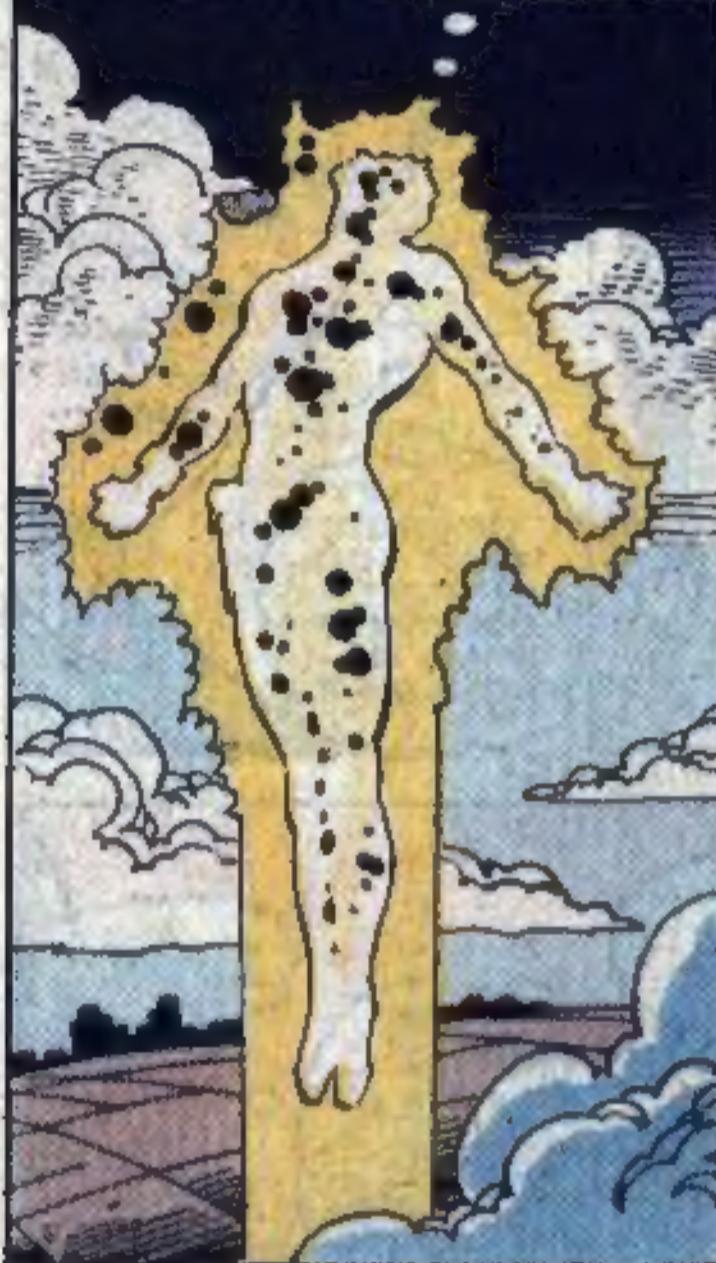
BYE, DAD--HOPE MY BOOM LIVES UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS!

MIght AS WELL RELAX--IT'LL BE ALL OVER IN AN INSTANT!

WHY FIGHT IT? JUST FLOW WITH IT... RIDE IT... LIKE A WAVE...

THE EXCESS ENERGY BUILDUP--GONE! WHERE? WHAT HAPPENED?

WHY HAVEN'T I EXPLODED?



DID I STUMBLE ONTO THE KNACK OF CONTROLLING THESE THINGS? RELAXING, GOING WITH THE ENERGY FLOW--WAS THAT THE KEY?

WESLEY AND THE ORIGINAL MARVEL BOY... DID THEY PANIC... TRY TO FIGHT THE FLOW? WAS THAT WHAT CONSUMED THEM?

WAS IT MY LACK OF A KILLER INSTINCT, A FIGHTING EDGE, A WILL TO WIN, THAT SAVED ME--??!



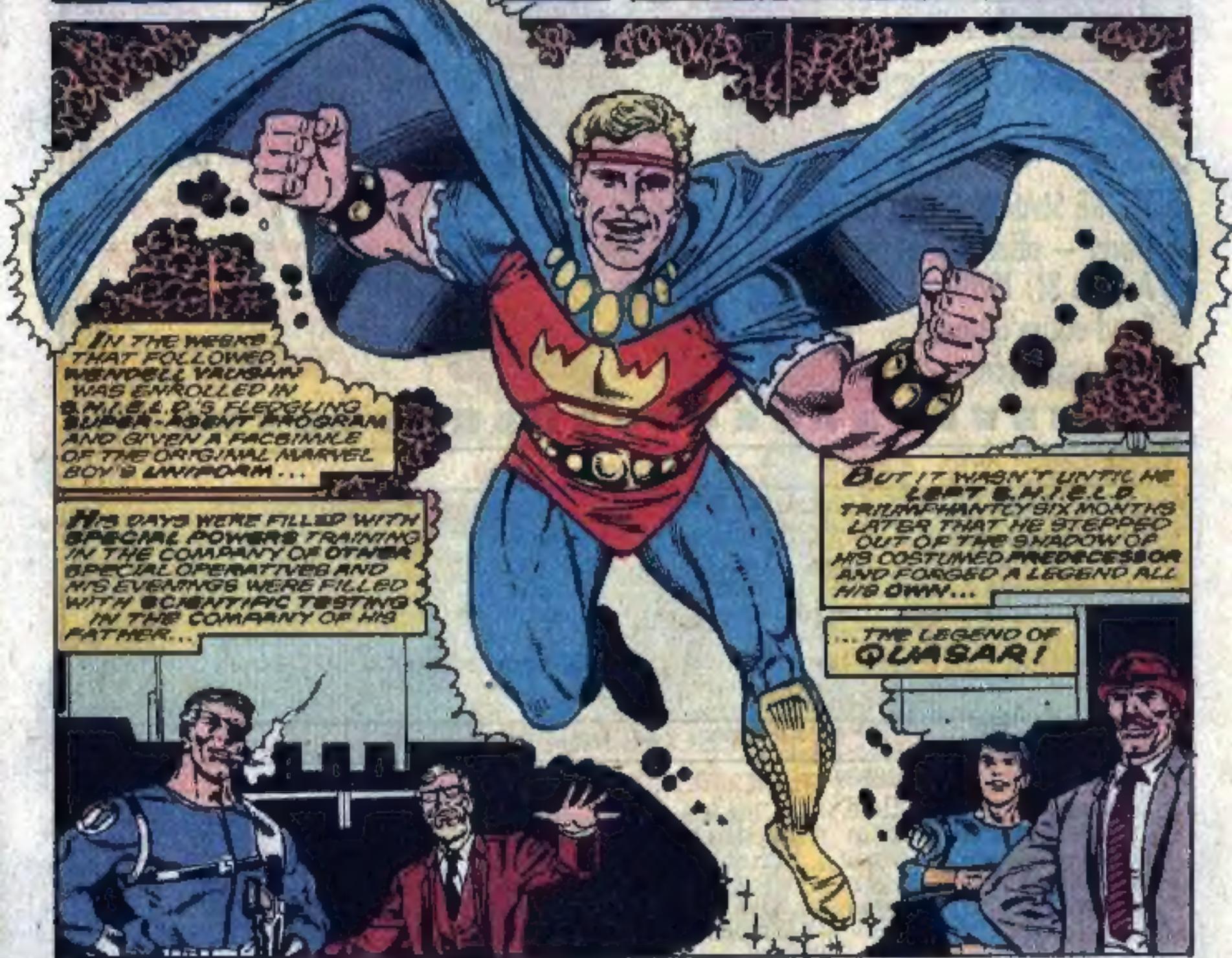


I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT TO  
MAKE OF THESE WRIST-BANDS,  
WHETHER THEY'RE SAFE OR  
NOT. I'M GOING TO FLY TO  
SOME REMOTE UNPOPULATED  
AREA TO WORK ON  
CONTROLLING THEM.



IS THIS THE PLEA  
OF A DISPASSIONATE  
SCIENTIST--





NEXT: THE SECRET  
OF QUASAR'S  
LOST YEARS!

**THE STARS,  
MY DESTINY!**

